

ARAB TIMES

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E. Europe not a model for Gulf

Our people are tribal. They are happy with their system: Rowas

MUSCAT, Dec 19, (Agencies): Oman's Information Minister said today that the Gulf Arab states support the changes in Eastern Europe, but do not consider them a blueprint for their own region.

"In Eastern Europe, people have chosen their own way of life," Information Minister Abdul Aziz Bin Mohammed Rowas said in a brief remarks to

reporters.

"Our people are tribal. They are happy with their system."

Rowas was elaborating on comments made by Sultan Qaboos at the opening session yesterday of a four-day summit of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Qaboos said the Gulf states had to take advantage of changes in the world to ensure a meaningful role in world affairs.

Rowas said it was important for the Gulf states to contribute to the changes by airing their own views.

Today's main session of the six leaders, scheduled for the afternoon, was postponed until the evening. The meetings are being held at the sumptuous Al Bustan Palace Hotel, built on a beach outside Muscat for the 1985 summit here.

Yousef Bin Alawi, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said the leaders listened to reports on numerous political issues in the evening session, including relations between Iran and Iraq, the crisis in Lebanon and the Palestinian problem.

The leaders attending the 10th meeting of the council are: host Qaboos, HH the Amir of Kuwait

and the six met to pass out diamond-encrusted medals to 60 Gulf citizens who had made substantial contributions in arts, let-

ters, sciences, government or sports. Ten people were chosen from each member country.

At tomorrow's most important, Gulf leaders are expected to put their seal to a controversial formula which would determine basis of economic relations between the group and the European Economic Community.

Hundreds dead in Romania carnage

Troops in Bucharest; world aghast; Moscow concerned

VIENNA, Dec 19, (Agencies): Gunshots and fires were reported today in the western Romanian city of Timisoara, where witnesses say dozens and possibly hundreds of people died in a crackdown on weekend anti-government rioting.

Unconfirmed reports trickling out of Romania put the death toll as high as 400. A Greek student arriving from Timisoara said many children were among the dead and injured.

None of the accounts could be independently confirmed because Romania barred virtually all foreigners from entering the country. The government made no statement,

and official media reports lacked any mention of the unrest.

The Roman Catholic news agency Kathpress in Vienna said a doctor told them by telephone from Timisoara that hundreds were wounded in the clashes and the death toll might exceed 400.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported from Bucharest, the Romanian capital, that students in the city had declared solidarity with protesters in Timisoara, prompting authorities to post police guards in their dormitories.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, said in a report from Bucharest that soldiers armed with automatic weapons patrolled the streets and buses containing troops and policemen were parked around the city.

It also said Soviets attempting to travel to Romania have been blocked at the border. Tass said cargo transportation, business trips and Romanians returning from visiting the Soviet Union have not been affected.

The Soviet Union showed concern today at events in Romania, and Tass said heavily armed troops and militia are patrolling the streets of Bucharest.

Moscow said restrictions were in force on their common border.

Tension is high in the city, Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said.

Unpleasant

Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze said in Brussels he had "preliminary information about some unpleasant things that happened there."

Meanwhile Ceausescu himself continued a state visit to Iran, apparently unconcerned over the violence rocking his country.

He assured Iranian leaders in Tehran in a banquet speech last night that his country's economic and social position was "good, stable and balanced," according to the official Agence France Presse news agency.

Governments worldwide criticised Romania today for its repression of weekend demonstrations that reportedly killed and injured scores and perhaps hundreds of people.

Even longtime East Bloc allies Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland protested to the government of Ceausescu.

British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave urged Romanian state employees to overthrow the communist government for their own safety.

Foreign ministers of the 12 European Economic Community nations denounced the violence. Several governments summoned Romanian diplomats to protest.

Repeated attempts to telephone Bucharest from Vienna and Budapest were unsuccessful today. Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn said the information blackout meant no reports could be authenticated.

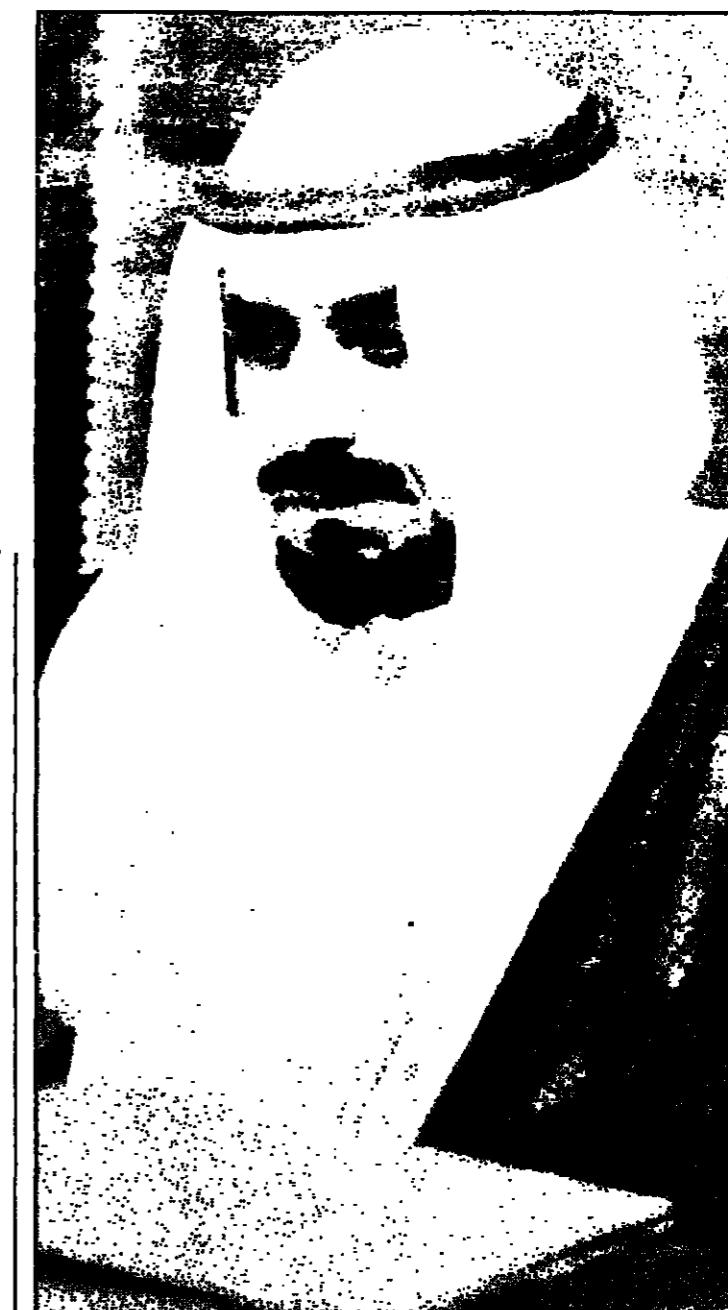
The various reports from travellers and other sources suggested President Nicolae Ceausescu, the last Stalinist ruler in the East bloc, sanctioned a harsh crackdown on opposition to his rule.

Romania is the lone East bloc country to withstand a wave of democratic reforms and Ceausescu's policies have forced widespread rationing and hardships on the 23 million citizens.

Governments throughout East and West Europe condemned the crackdown.

A Timisoara resident who travelled to Yugoslavia told the Associated Press he saw several corpses in the streets and that parts of the old city centre,

(Continued on Page 6)



Israel, Tehran trade to free 3

NEW YORK, Dec 19, (Agencies): Israel has bought \$36 million worth of oil from Iran to help free three Israeli military men captured in Lebanon, it was reported today.

Israeli representatives also have discussed the possibility of selling Iran spare parts for its western-made military hardware, the US television network NBC reported last night, citing unidentified sources in US and Israeli intelligence.

In addition to winning the radical Muslim country's help in seeking the release of Israeli oil purchases and a potential spare parts deal are intended to bolster Iran's position against a common enemy, Iraq, NBC said.

Spokesman for Israel's energy, foreign and defence ministries refused today to comment on the report. The Defence Ministry also refused to allow reporters to talk to Uri Lubrani, mentioned in the NBC report as the man who dealt with the Iranians in Switzerland.

Lubrani is responsible for Israel's Lebanon policy and served as ambassador to Iran before the revolution that swept Ayatollah Khomeini to power in 1979.

The United States is backing the deal in hopes that it could lead to the release of nine US hostages held in Lebanon, NBC said.

The United States said today that Israel had bought oil from Iran and informed Washington of the purchase after the fact.

State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters that Israel had volunteered the information "a month ago, after the fact."

The two million barrels worth \$36 million was delivered in November, NBC said.

Though Iran's leaders are avowedly anti-Israel, the deal would give the country's struggling economy badly needed foreign currency.

With a world oil glut, Israel has no problem buying enough oil to meet its 170,000-barrel-a-day requirement.

Joseph Alpher of the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for strategic studies, executive editor of the center's annual "Middle East military balance," said Israel had other considerations that could justify ties with Iran, apart from seeking the release of its prisoners.

"Iran is getting stronger every day by acquiring chemical and non-conventional arms that threaten us," Alpher said on Israeli television. "There is a reason to see to it that Iran can continue confronting and diverting the Iraqi forces."

The scientists said they would have to treat more patients to be sure of the experiment's success.

The patient was a 41-year-old man.

CBS Gringo: Cory finished

Powers law passes

MANILA, Dec 19, (AP): The Philippines defence chief recommended today that security be tightened around President Corazon Aquino following a death threat from leaders of this month's failed coup.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos made the suggestion following an interview in which former renegade Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan told reporters that Israel had volunteered the information "a month ago, after the fact."

Meanwhile, the military said two gunmen firing from a parked car shot and wounded Lt. Col. Eduardo Amoyo, commander of a military garrison, as he drove to work early today from his home in the Manila suburb of Makati.

Hospital officials said Amoyo was in stable condition, but a policeman who tried to intervene was slain by the attackers, who escaped in a commandeered taxi.

It was unclear whether the assailants were communists rebels or if the attack on the officer was related to the recent coup attempt.

In the television interview, Honasan threatened to "physically remove" Aquino and that other leaders of the Dec. 9 coup attempt would not rule out assassination.

Asked if Aquino was "finished," Honasan told CBS: "Yes, politically, historically, morally and perhaps, physically."

Transcripts of the interview were released in Manila today by

the presidential palace and their authenticity was confirmed by CBS in Manila.

CBS said the interview was conducted secretly in the Manila area and also included renegade Commodore Domingo Calajai, one of five flag officers reportedly involved in the failed coup.

In response to the threat, Ramos said: "Naturally, the head of government and the head of state ... deserve that kind of protection, especially from determined power-grabbers like Gringo Honasan, his followers and his supporters, both military and civilians."

Honasan and many of the leaders of the failed coup remain at large after mutinous troops surrendered their last position Dec. 9.

The government estimates that the failed coup cost the country 30 billion pesos (\$1.3 billion) and will reduce the gross national product by a full percentage point.

The Philippine Congress today gave final approval to a bill granting Aquino emergency powers for six months to help restore order. The new powers include the authority to close radio and television stations that broadcast "subversive propaganda."

Aquino, battling to recover from her worst political crisis, received fresh assurances of support from the United States and Britain.

Zahed Matar

Gala cancelled

Pak extremists threaten

KARACHI, Dec 19, (AP): Security threats by Muslim extremists have forced Pakistani authorities to cancel a planned entertainment gala featuring India's top musicians and film stars, the sponsor said today.

The right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami political party said it intended to block the stars from performing on Dec 25 and 26 to protest a recent Hindu-Muslim dispute in India.

Riaz Malik, president of the Pakistan Welfare Association, said Karachi city officials refused to give permission to hold the so-called Super Stars' Nite on grounds that they couldn't guarantee the safety of the artists or the audience.

He said it prompted his organization to cancel a second show scheduled in the city of Lahore.

"These shows are part of an Indian attempt to (draw attention away from) the massacre of Muslims in India," Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami, was quoted as saying in Pakistani newspapers.

He was referring to violence that claimed some 300 lives this autumn over Hindu plans to build a temple at a site held sacred by Muslims in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

Ahmed also claimed the show would be "anti-Islamic" and that singing and dancing would be obscene. Pakistan's fundamentalist Muslim minority opposes virtually all kinds of entertainment.

Transplant eliminates Aids virus

NEW YORK, Dec 19, (Reuter): A bone marrow transplant combined with treatment with the drug AZT eradicated the Aids virus from the body of one patient, the first time such a result has been achieved in AIDS research, the New York Times said today.

The newspaper, quoting the annuals of internal medicine, reported that research scientist at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore led by Dr. Reya Saral said the treatment offered hope for an AIDS cure.

The scientists said they would have to treat more patients to be sure of the experiment's success.

The patient was a 41-year-old man.

August, lawyer Yigal Shapira said.

As Israeli Foreign Ministry said of the inquiry: "Basically the purpose is to exchange opinions on the possibility of co-operation on combating drug traffic."

Officials of the Senate subcommittee on investigations came to probe Israeli links with Colombia, the main supplier of cocaine to the United States.

Among those questioned was reserve Lieutenant-Colonel Yaakov Klein, head of an Israel security firm shown training Colombian gunmen in a US television report last

August, lawyer Yigal Shapira said.

The Americans also met four staff of Klein's Hod Hemed (shearhead) security firm. The sessions lasted six hours on Sunday and Monday, Shapira said.

(Continued on Page 6)

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 19, (Reuter): US officials in Israel this week questioned army officers suspected of training hit squads for Colombian drug barons, a lawyer for the officers said today.

Officials of the Senate subcommittee on investigations came to probe Israeli links with Colombia, the main supplier of cocaine to the United States.

Among those questioned was reserve Lieutenant-Colonel Yaakov Klein, head of an Israel security firm shown training Colombian gunmen in a US television report last

August, lawyer Yigal Shapira said.

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Flu spreads to parts of Europe

GENEVA, Dec 19, (AP): Influenza is continuing to spread in parts of continental Europe after already reaching epidemic levels in Britain, according to the World Health Organisation which is monitoring national reports.

Vaccine shortages may occur in some areas if there is a sudden increase in demand, but supplies should cover the needs of elderly persons and risk groups, a WHO official said today.

Timisoara resident who travelled to Yugoslavia told the Associated Press he saw several corpses in the streets and that parts of the old city centre,

(Continued on Page 6)

AS the new commerce law is still with the Fatwa and Legislation Department, the addition of a clause permitting the establishment of "offshore" companies in Kuwait is vital.

Through these companies, individuals will benefit in their foreign dealings instead of resorting to registering companies in Panama, New Jersey or others which allow registration of companies without restrictions, which are aimed at collecting taxes.

Permitting the operations of such companies in Kuwait takes on added significance as they will become a very vital source for reactivating the local economy.

Additionally, we should allow the establishment of "holding" companies which can establish other "twin" companies under its umbrella.

Zahed Matar

25 killed in continued Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Dec 19. (AP): At least 25 people were killed in continued violence inspired by Sinhalese radicals in Sri Lanka, the government said today. Among the dead were 10 extremists killed by troops.

Militants of the People's Liberation Front, an ultra-nationalist guerrilla group trying to overthrow the government, killed nine people in three separate attacks, a government statement said.

It said two of the attacks occurred in central Badulla district and one in the southern Hambantota district during a 24-hour period ending 8 am (0230 GMT) today.

The information department statement did not give details.

The front's campaign of assassinations, launched in 1987 to protest the government's peace overtures to Tamil separatists in the northeast, is concentrated in southern and central districts, the Sinhalese heartland.

A Sinhalese tea planter and village headman were also killed by the extremists during the period in two attacks in southern Kataru town, the statement said.

Military officials said troops killed six radicals in Western Gamcha district and four militants in central Kandy

district in three confrontations.

India denied today Sri Lankan allegations that it has been backing an illegal militia known as the Tamil National Army (TNA).

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said earlier this month that Indian forces, sent to the island in 1987 to help suppress a separatist revolt by the Tamil minority, were training and arming the TNA.

An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman told reporters today, "there is no question of arming the so-called TNA. We are not aware of any such group."

Military sources in Colombo have said the TNA has about 4,000 fighters and was set up by the Selan People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, which is battling for supremacy against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

About 900 Indian troops will leave from the north eastern port city of Trincomalee tomorrow aboard an Indian vessel for India, sources said today.

The sources said, the troops are to leave for south India aboard the ship "M.V. Akbar." The troops have also withdrawn from the northern town of Vavuniya, 217 km from Colombo, they said.

Suspected of being hitmen to kill Rushdie UK to deport 2 Iranians, frees 2

LONDON, Dec 19. (AP): Britain announced today it is deporting two Iranian students whose attorney said they were suspected of being a hit squad to kill author Salman Rushdie. Two other Iranians were freed.

The four Iranians were arrested on Friday at their homes in Manchester under the Prevention of Terrorism Act which gives police the right to hold them for seven days without being charged.

The Home Office said tonight that engineering students Karen Abrinia, 32, and Mehrdad Kokabi, 33, were being deported "for reasons of national security." It did not elaborate.

Another student, Hussein Gharibi, and Javad Mousavi, 40, a disabled father of four, were freed.

Attorney Zahid Aziz, who represents the four Iranians, said yesterday: "The police have told me very little but the men are under the impression they have been arrested because they are suspected of being a hit squad to kill Salman Rushdie."

The Indian-born British novelist was condemned to death Feb 14 by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." He has been in hiding ever since under police protection.

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Cory-press ties souring

Legal action threat

MANILA, Dec 19. (AP): President Corazon Aquino's relations with the press is a love affair gone sour. She once praised the media for helping her take power. Now, she threatens legal action against those deemed siding those out to topple her.

On Monday, Mrs Aquino, seeking to repair the damage wrought by the recent failed coup, told reporters that the government will revoke the franchise of broadcasters who violate regulations against airing "subversive propaganda."

"With regard to print media, it's an entirely different matter," Mrs Aquino said. "We will base this on any article that will incite to rebellion. If such an article does appear in any of the newspapers, then we will go to court to file charges against the erring individual or the publication."

She gave no indication what standards will be used to determine whether reports "incite rebellion."

A senior US official, speaking on condition he not be named, defended the government's plans in the wake of the Dec 1-9 coup attempt. He said American presidents also have imposed controls during grave national emergencies.

But media controls of any sort are a sensitive issue in a country emerging from years of strongman rule under the late president Ferdinand Marcos and uncertain of the strength of its democratic institutions.

"The government assault on press freedom has begun," said

the newspaper Malaya. "What is frightening is the mere thought that the Aquino government, swept into power on the promise of rigid observance of the citizens' rights and liberties, would entertain the idea of muzzling the press."

Since Marcos was ousted, more than 20 English, Tagalog and Chinese language newspapers have appeared in the capital, and the Manila press has become one of the most free-wheeling in Asia.

The moves are aimed at limiting access to media, particularly radio, by rebels still at large. Ironically, some of Mrs Aquino's stalwarts complained of stringent measures undertaken to limit access to opposition groups under Marcos.

During the February 1986 uprising that toppled Marcos, Mrs Aquino's allies carefully cultivated foreign reporters and local journalists bold enough to challenge the government's version of events. On the first of the Marcos ouster, the government awarded certificates of thanks to foreign journalists who covered the 1986 uprising.

So far, the National Telecommunications Commission has closed only two radio stations — a pro-Marcos outlet in Manila and another broadcaster in Cebu. The Cebu station was later allowed to reopen.

After the August 1987 coup attempt, some independent stations aired taped interviews with renegade Lt Gen Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

Savage Atlantic storm takes 32 lives in Europe

PARIS, Dec 19. (AP): A wave swept a teenage angler out to sea and gusting high winds blew two cars into a head-on collision, killing two people, as the toll from a savage tropical storm rose to at least 32 yesterday.

Twelve people died and 20 were reported missing in France, Britain, Portugal and at sea after the storm moved in with heavy rains, lightning and wind blowing from the southwest Atlantic at speeds up to 143 mph (90 mph).

Residents along French coastal areas had more rain and 62-mile-per-hour (100-kilometre-per-hour) gusts yesterday morning, but the wind dropped later in the day and forecasters predicted much milder winds today.

Widespread damage was reported in western parts of France with roofs torn off homes, trees and telephone lines

toppled, and structures knocked over by the gale-force winds.

Rescue teams searched yesterday for 11 sailors missing in stormy seas off the mid-Atlantic Azores islands, Portuguese navy officials said.

The fishing boat Velasco II went down about 770 kilometres (480 miles) northeast of Sao Miguel island on Sunday night. Waves were up to eight metres (26 feet) high at the time.

On the Portuguese mainland, two other people died in storm-related incidents.

The French death toll rose to 10 yesterday with the discovery of a drowned fisherman near the Brittany island of Brehat.

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Imelda's spending restricted

LOS ANGELES, Dec 19, (Reuter): A US judge yesterday ordered the once high-living Imelda Marcos, widow of former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, to account for what she spends and to obtain court approval in advance for any expenditure over \$10,000.

The court order also requires Imelda, who bought hundreds of pairs of shoes, designer clothes and handbags on shopping sprees where her husband was in power, to obtain court approval before accepting any loans of more than \$10,000.

Lawyers for the Philippine government said the Marcos family had violated court orders by transferring assets, including more than \$200 million to help finance a planned invasion of the Philippines.

US federal judge Mariana Pfaehler froze the Marcos assets in 1986 pending trial of a suit brought by the government of President Corazon Aquino seeking to recover \$5 billion that the couple is alleged to have stolen from the Philippines.

Pfaehler said the Philippine government had made a good showing that her earlier order had been violated. "The money has gone places we didn't want it to go under the injunction," she said.

In their request for the new restrictions, Philippine government lawyers alleged that Marcos and his wife had transferred ownership of two New York buildings, four corporations and at least one Swiss bank account, worth more than \$100 million, to Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi.

Khashoggi was flown from Switzerland to New York last July to stand trial on charges of fraud and obstruction of justice.

The fire aboard the 284,500-ton supertanker Kharg-5 was reported after the vessel collided with a metal wall in choppy waters in the Atlantic, ripping a hole in the hull.

A Tehran radio report monitored in Athens said the 35 crewmen on board had been rescued, and salvage vessels were assisting the Kharg-5 when last reports came in.

The radio did not say when the collision occurred and whether the tanker was loaded or empty at the time. (UPI)



Looking for snipers

Indian troops keep an eye out for snipers in Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. The strategic territory of Kashmir was placed under curfew after the Indian government exchanged five Kashmiri separatists for the kidnapped daughter of the home minister. (Reuter wirephoto)

Grenada premier dies: Prime Minister Herbert Blaize of Grenada died early today at his official residence. Governor-General Paul Scoon announced. Blaize was 72.

The prime minister had been working from an office in his residence for about a year because of his ailment.

Scoon said he hoped to announce a replacement for Blaize later in the day.

No cause of death was given immediately. Blaize had suffered for years from prostate cancer. (AP)

British MP suicide: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government today faced the prospect of an embarrassing by-election following the apparent suicide of Conservative Member of Parliament John Hoddle.

The 49-year-old legislator's body was found in his car at a chalkpit south of London. A hosepipe was connected to the car's exhaust and police said no one else was involved.

Hoddle's death will force Thatcher to hold a by-election in his English Midlands constituency at a time when the government is trailing the opposition Labour Party by between 10 and 15 per cent according to opinion polls. (Reuter)

Iran tanker catches fire: An Iranian supertanker caught fire off the North African coast in the Atlantic Ocean, but the 35-member crew were rescued, Tehran radio said today.

The fire aboard the 284,500-ton supertanker Kharg-5 was reported after the vessel collided with a metal wall in choppy waters in the Atlantic, ripping a hole in the hull.

A Tehran radio report monitored in Athens said the 35 crewmen on board had been rescued, and salvage vessels were assisting the Kharg-5 when last reports came in.

The radio did not say when the collision occurred and whether the tanker was loaded or empty at the time. (UPI)

Aldington accepts damages: World War II veteran Lord Aldington accepted today £30,000 and a public apology from the publishers of a book that described him as a war criminal.

The libel settlement was reached in June before the start of Aldington's libel action in October against historian Count Nikolai Tolstoy, a descendant of Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy, and property developer Nigel Watts, over a pamphlet repeating the allegations. A jury awarded Aldington a record £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) last month in the pamphlet action.

Publishers Century Hutchinson accepted that the charges against the 75-year-old Aldington in Tolstoy's book, "The Minister and the Massacres," were "entirely untrue," their lawyer John Previte told the High Court. (AP)

US military jet crashes: West Germany state government officials demanded today that the United States massively reduce military training flights after two air force F-16s collided, spewing debris and training ammunition over a wide area.

Monday's crash, which occurred near the central West German city of Ludwigshafen, killed US air force pilot 1st Lt Steven Sundstrom, 29, of Fort Bragg, California, according to air force spokeswoman Capt Paula Koureas.

The other pilot, Maj. Roderick R. Kallman, 36, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, received injuries after ejecting, but was listed in excellent condition, Ms Koureas added.

Authorities in the Rhineland-Palatinate state, where the accident took place, have lodged a protest with military officials. (AP)

Ferry disaster hearing: A preliminary hearing opened yesterday to determine if there is evidence to try P and O European ferries and seven company executives and seamen on manslaughter charges in a ferry disaster in Belgium that killed 193 people.

P and O is charged with corporate manslaughter, the first such prosecution in England, following the 1987 accident in which the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise was swamped and capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour, Belgium, after the rear doors were left open.

The hearing, at which evidence and exhibits will be presented and witnesses called, was expected to last about three weeks. (AP)

Aids symptoms research: Most people with HIV infection can expect to be free of full-blown AIDS symptoms for up to 15 years. British research has revealed.

The prediction tallies with an American study which showed that only half of HIV patients develop symptoms in 10 years.

Party congress to seal merger

Mugabe upholds socialism

HARARE, Dec 19. (Reuter): Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe challenged his ruling party today to reaffirm its faith in socialist principles and Marxism-Leninism despite sweeping political changes in the Soviet bloc.

"Is our development path... to be that of socialism or that of capitalism? I am a socialist, but what are you?" Mugabe asked 4,300 delegates to the congress of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) (Zanu-PF).

"Socialists," a few scattered voices shouted back.

The Congress marks the final stage in a two-year merger between Mugabe's party and the opposition PF-Zanu movement of Joshua Nkomo, the elder statesman of Zimbabwean African nationalism.

Nkomo, one of two vice-presidents of the new party, sat on the platform and applauded Mugabe, who has led Zimbabwe on a course of moderate socialist reform since independence in 1980.

Mugabe appeared to be getting in the first blow against critics who feel it is time for the party to shed its largely symbolic Marxist-Leninist label.

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Gun alarm in US 'safe' schools

NEW YORK, Dec 19. (AP): Alexander "Junior" Stevens travelled seven miles (11 km) every morning to Alfred E. Smith High School, an all-boys vocational school with a reputation as a quite place, a "safe" school.

"Junior" was shot to death outside the school cafeteria on Nov 14; a 15-year-old classmate was charged. The two were playing with a .22-calibre when it accidentally went off, police said.

"There are plenty of safe schools all over the city where kids are sitting there with guns in their bookbags. They just haven't decided to shoot yet," said Ed Muir, of the United Federation of Teachers, the teachers union.

"Junior's" was the first killing in a city school since 1978. It caused little uproar among students.

"The thing that everyone was taken aback by is that the kids seem to be taking this so calmly. It's just another kid whacked," Muir said.

Bruce Irushalmi, director of the board of education office of school safety, said students "bring guns to school because they don't feel safe going to and from school.... They say they need them to create a balance of power."

From September 1988 to June 1989, 1,854 weapons were seized at city schools, ranging

from razor-edged box cutters to automatic weapons. At 15 schools where roving teams of security guards used metal detectors, five guns and 815 other weapons were confiscated during the 1988-1989 school year — a year that saw 1,356 students assaulted, 183 robbed, 78 sexually assaulted and 105 caught using controlled substances. Figures for this year are unavailable.

To balance the budget race, New York City spent \$62 million on school security in 1988, about 1 per cent of the \$7 billion budget.

Metal detectors accounted for about \$4 million of that; the rest supported 2,450 uniformed, but unarmed, security guards

who police a school system with just under a million students.

"If we were a police force, we would be the 10th largest police force in the country," Irushalmi said.

To Muir, it isn't enough. He cites the increase in gun incidents — twice a week last year, 19 in the first 34 school days of this year — as evidence that city's schools are dangerous places. Figures kept by his union show a 5 per cent increase in incidents inside schools during the 1988-89 school year.

Preliminary figures for 1989 showed a 11 per cent increase in school crime in September, and Muir said 44 teachers were assual-

ted during the first month of school this fall, compared with 27 during September 1988.

But Irushalmi, whose two children attend public schools, says the problem is not inside the buildings. Reports of violence inside schools have fallen from 15,000 a year in 1981 to 9,000 in 1988-89. Outside is another story.

Outside Prospect Heights High School in the New York City Borough of Brooklyn, a student was shot on the very first day of school.

"There's no safety in Prospect Heights," despite spot checks with metal detectors,

said Bob "Brother" Abu, 15.

"There ain't no safety," said his 17-year-old friend, who identified himself as Carl, a senior at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn. He wore a blue bandana over his lower face, and said he was a member of the Deceptions, a teen-age street gang named after evil characters in "The Transformers," a cartoon show.

The loosely knit gang, which has taken to bandanas, identification has been accused of taking part in Halloween rampages on Manhattan's East Side, as well as in wolfpack-type attacks on students at bus and subway stations.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: Christina Orr-Cahall resigned Monday as director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art because of a barrage of criticism over her decision last summer to cancel a photography exhibit containing sexually explicit pictures.

The board of trustees of the 120-year-old gallery, the oldest in Washington and third oldest private museum in the United States, agreed overwhelmingly to accept the resignation in the hope of laying the controversy to rest.

In a letter to the 54-member board, Ms Orr-Cahall said she was resigning effective Feb 1 "in the hope that my decision will help to eliminate or abate those extraneous and disruptive difficulties" that have plagued the Corcoran for the past six months.

Gallery president Fredericks G. Jewett Jr said at a news conference that "in all of Dr Orr-Cahall's actions and recommendations to the board of trustees, she acted in the utmost good faith" and had "displayed qualities of professional skill, courage and loyalty." (AP)

TALLASSEEE, Alabama: Scientists looking into ways of boosting milk production have discovered the sweet smell of success in anise oil.

Dairy cows got along better when sprayed with the licorice-scented fragrance, and when cows feel at ease, they give more milk, say researchers Keith Cummins and Lawrence Myers of Auburn University.

"Most people seem to find a little bit of humor in it," Cummins said last week. "I try to emphasize that this has a serious application, but it makes me smile, too."

Cummins said dairy cows must be regressed every two to four weeks to maximize production and feed efficiently, forcing the animals to re-establish their "pecking order."

That results in biting, pushing and shoving. Cows become nervous and upset, and milk production drops.

(AP) ***

DALLAS: Film critic Rex Reed says he loves movies, but thinks so much of what's produced today is horribile.

"Ninety per cent of the films today are toxic waste," he said. "On every screen, you're confronted by the same girls you saw the night before..."

Reed said romance has been replaced with "blood-spattering violence and a lot of crude sexual calisthenics."

He also said movie-goers must get the idea that women today are "whores, emotional cripples or birdbrains."

Reed said it isn't really a chore to review movies even though he doesn't think highly of many of them. (AP) ***

Hostage Diana prays



I stopped Big Ben: psychic

Psychic magician Uri Geller, who claims to have stopped London's Big Ben clock last week through sheer thought power, has promised to repeat the feat on new year's eve.

Geller visited the famous London landmark yesterday to inspect the huge clock and told reporters: "I believe I can do it again."

The hands of Big Ben stood still for three hours last Friday while experts sorted out a problem with its cogwheels. Geller, an Israeli who shot to fame in the 1970s with psychic feats like spoon-bending, claimed he was responsible.

"All I did was hold a postcard with Big Ben on it and said 'stop, stop, stop' in my mind," he said. "I thought I was trying a really ridiculous feat and was wasting my time, but then my wife raced into my study and told me it had stopped. It really blew my mind."

Geller said his bid to stop the clock again just seconds before it rang in the new year would go ahead only with official permission. But the Authorities immediately dampened his hopes.

"Quite simply we would not give anyone permission of that sort," a government spokeswoman said. (Reuters wirephoto) ...

NEW YORK: The New York Film Critics Circle on Monday named "My Left Foot," a British film about the almost completely paralysed Irish writer Christy Brown, the year's best film.

British actor Daniel Day-Lewis was named best actor for his portrayal of Brown, who can type, paint, and accomplish everyday tasks using only his left foot.

The awards by New York's Film Critics are often considered a precursor to the Academy Awards which are announced in March.

"My Left Foot" was filmed in Dublin by first-time director Jim Sheridan. (Reuters) ***

LOS ANGELES: Two policemen have promised to play Father Christmas and buy presents for a girl with cancer after thieves stole all her gifts.

Thieves broke into the home of nine-year-old Veronica Griffin, who has undergone three cancer operations, while her mother was visiting her in hospital, policeman Kevin Becker said.

"The place had been practically stripped bare," Becker said. "The gifts included dolls and a blackboard. Even the child's clothing had been stolen."

"The mother, Blanche Griffin, told us she had scraped and saved up \$1,200 to buy presents for Veronica and her two other children. All had been stolen." (Reuters) ***

WASHINGTON: US presidency has variously been described as the loneliest job in the world or a splendid misery. President George Bush says it's not so.

"I don't want to be in the position, and I never will be... in the hand-wringing position of, 'oh, this is the loneliest job in the world, and no one understands,'" Bush said in an interview on Monday. "It isn't lonely."

In a 30-minute interview with news agency reporters, Bush said he had gained confidence during his first year in office and that his guiding principal is based on his mother's advice to "do your best."

"You've got to, you know, have the conviction that you're doing what you think is correct. That's what the people elected me to do," he said. (Reuters) ***

NEW YORK: If anyone stole the President's wallet, it might be a while before he noticed it was missing.

"You carry cash, but you don't use it much," President George Bush said in a recent interview.

Asked how much he carried, he

said: "I'm glad I chose the career I did," the former newspaperman said. "I've striven for a mastery of the (English language) and yet I know it will never be mastered."

Heathrow said he considers himself a mere "passerby in the world" who was lucky enough to pursue his literary dream.

"I always have things in my mind," he said Saturday at a book-signing session in Heliaca. "Time's short, though."

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Guth



Police and military bomb experts dispose of a package bomb found in the 11th US Court of Appeals building in Atlanta on Dec 18. Hundreds of workers were evacuated after a routine inspection discovered the device. (Reuter wirephoto)

Blast in black activist's office

Mail bomb kills lawyer

SAVANNAH, Georgia, Dec 19. (AP): A lawyer has been killed in his office by a mail bomb and a similar bomb was removed safely from the 11th US circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, two days after a postal bomb killed a judge from the court.

The FBI, probing the killing Saturday of US circuit judge Robert S. Vance near Birmingham, Alabama, said there are "strong similarities" among the three bombs. There also was a link to an August tear-gas bombing of the NAACP's regional headquarters in Atlanta.

Robert Robinson, 42, a black civil rights activist, lawyer and city alderman in Savannah, died of his injuries at 8:25 pm Monday (0125 GMT Tuesday) while undergoing surgery.

Officials said the blast occurred about 5 pm (2200 GMT) in his office in the coastal city in the northeast corner of the state.

In downtown Atlanta, shaken employees evacuated the five-storey 11th Circuit courthouse shortly before 10 am (1500 GMT) Monday after a bomb, in a small brown package, was found "during a random sampling of the mail," said police Maj. W.W. Holley.

The preliminary investigation (in Savannah) indicates strong similarities to the other explosive

devices in Birmingham and Atlanta," said FBI agent Tom Moore.

Moore said FBI and postal service bomb experts who were in Birmingham Sunday and in Atlanta Monday were flown to Savannah.

At a Savannah news conference late Monday, FBI special agent Bob Deloach said it was "definitely a possibility" that white supremacists sent the bomb that killed Robinson.

Deloach and special agent William Hinshaw said the FBI is warning lawyers, judges and activists of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People in Georgia and Alabama to beware of strange packages.

Hinshaw said the FBI also warned the NAACP that the attacks appear to be related to the Aug 22, 1989, tear-gas mail bomb attack at NAACP's Atlanta offices, in which eight people, including an infant, were injured.

The caustic gas bomb was sent to the civil rights organisation via postal service "priority mail" and was addressed only to the NAACP, not to any individual, and had a phony return address.

The FBI earlier had not ruled out drug traffickers as suspects in the bombing of Judge Vance.

Salvador couple's claim denied

WASHINGTON, Dec 19. (AP): The United States denied a Salvadoran couple's claim that interrogators mistreated them after they accused the Salvadoran Army of involvement in the killing of six Jesuit priests last month.

The outcome of the case could affect whether the US Congress reduces or stops aid to El Salvador, said US Ambassador to El Salvador, William Walker. "US policy is very much riding on this case," he said.

The couple, Jorge Cerna, and his wife, Lucia Barrera de Cerna, told the New York Times that US and Salvadoran investigators repeatedly accused them during interrogations in Miami of lying, and at one point threatened to deport them.

Martha Doggett, of the lawyers committee for human rights, said the woman was so intimidated by FBI agents and a Salvadoran colonel that she recanted her eyewitness account of the killing of the six priests.

After the account of the couple appeared in Monday's editions of the New York Times, the State Department reaffirmed the denials it had issued last week following similar charges by a Salvadoran cleric.

Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuwiler said Mrs Barrera de Cerna was treated with "respect and courtesy" during the interviews, which were conducted over a period of several days in late November in Miami.

"Every effort was made to make the witness feel comfortable and secure," Ms Tuwiler said, adding there was no threat at any time to deport her.

Justice Department spokesman David Runkle said a review of the transcript indicated the interviews were carried out in a professional fashion.

But Ms Doggett said the interrogators at one point said "who put you up to this?" when questioning their account.

Ms Barrera was also told, "depending on what you say, you may or may not have to go back to El Salvador," said Ms Doggett, who coordinates Latin American and Caribbean affairs for the lawyers committee.

Brazil cars plunge: 15 die

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 19. (AP): Fifteen people died when five cars plunged into a crater created when heavy rains washed out a road in northeastern Brazil, a civil defence official said yesterday.

The cars plunged into a 30-foot (10-metre) hole after the road cracked near the city of Santa Barbara, 1,200 miles (1,940 km) northeast of Rio, said Gloria Pires da Silva.

She said the cars were returning from Salvador, 85 miles (140 km) south of the city, where the motorists and passengers had voted in Sunday's presidential election.

The SBT television network showed footage of mangled vehicles, covered by mud and debris, at the bottom of the crater.

Security at airports lax

FAA faulted

WASHINGTON, Dec 19. (AP):

Increased security procedures since the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 are not being carried out properly at high-risk foreign airports due to a lack of training standards, a congressional report said yesterday.

The General Accounting Office report faults the Federal Aviation Administration for not establishing minimum training requirements and standards for the extra security measures taken following the Dec 21, 1988, disaster that killed 270 people.

Kenneth Mead, GAO director for transportation issues, told a presidential commission investigating aviation security and the Pan Am crash that the congressional watchdog agency has found several "fundamental deficiencies" in FAA security programmes.

Earlier reports, he noted, found problems with passenger screening, airport security controls and security inspections.

The latest study found that the FAA does not adequately oversee formal airline security training at foreign airports where US airlines are responsible for security of their planes and passengers.

Mead said the FAA has concurred with most of the agency's findings and made some changes but does not keep close enough tabs on security on a day-to-day basis.

Sen. Alfonso D'Amato, a commission member, said the congressional studies indicate that "the FAA and the present system have flunked when it comes to providing basic security systems that anyone can have confidence in."

D'Amato said problems with the FAA suggest there may be a conflict between its role of promoting aviation and that of

ensuring passenger safety.

The GAO, in its report, said the FAA has not been routinely evaluating airline security training at high-risk airports.

The report recommended that the FAA develop training requirements and standards tailored to the increased screening required of US carriers at several high-risk foreign airports. The government has required airlines to install devices that can detect plastic explosives in passenger luggage.

The pre-Christmas travel rush caused long lines and delays at London's Heathrow airport, where security has been tightened over the last six weeks, an airport spokeswoman said yesterday.

BAA, which operates Heathrow and six other British airports, has issued an appeal to passengers to leave Christmas presents unwrapped, minimise the number of electronic items they pack and limit themselves to one piece of hand baggage to speed up security checks.

The United Nations World Aviation Authority announced yesterday that it would offer money and special expertise to countries needing help in protecting their airports and airlines from terrorist attack.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said that from Jan 1 it would provide financial, technical and material assistance to Third World countries and other nations seeking to beef up their security systems.

The ICAO council adopted the programme as part of a new push to combat terrorism following the Lockerbie disaster last December in which 270 were killed when Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Scotland.

Terror carnage to increase next year

Experts worried over use of sophisticated weapons

WASHINGTON, Dec 19. (AP): The casualty toll from international terrorism is expected to rise next year because of increasingly sophisticated weapons, possibly including chemical and biological weapons, US government experts said.

Terrorist groups appear to be moving away from hijackings and towards airplane bombings, as evidenced by the Pan Am explosion last December and by the bombings this year of an Avianca plane over Colombia and a French UTA jetliner over Niger in Africa, said Anthony Wayne of the US State Department's office on counter-

operations. "Terrorists, to stay on the front page and in the public eye feel they must increase the carnage," he said.

As a result, "it's likely that we'll see more efforts to bomb planes and the appearance of new weapons and tactics previously shunned by terrorist groups. Indeed, future concern is the possible introduction of biochemical agents," he said.

Wayne and Cropsey were on a panel of experts who spoke at a symposium organised by George Washington University. The panel cautioned against expectations that Soviet reforms will result in a lessening of support for countries like Cuba, Syria and Nicaragua that fund terrorist groups around the world.

"Until proven wrong, we should not operate" on that assumption, said Oliver B. Revell, associate deputy director of investigations at the FBI.

Revell said terrorists organisations such as the Japanese Red Army and the Palestine Liberation Front-General Command will continue to pose a threat to civilians in 1990.

The PFLP-GC is reportedly the prime suspect in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland last December, in which 270 people—among them 200 Americans—were killed.

Revell also said "a very small number of tightly disciplined" Iranians among the 325,000 Iranians known to be living in the United States could present a threat to Americans. "Anti-US sentiment has continued since the death of Iran's revered spiritual and government leader Ayatollah Khomeini last summer," Revell said.

Some 10,000 Iranian students on scholarships from their governments like in the United States and "with this infrastructure, the threat appears to be substantial," he said.

Other officials note that Iran has been increasing its contacts with the PFLP-GC and other Palestinian groups since September with a view to possible cooperation in international terrorism.

Tehran radio reported in recent months on several meetings between senior officials and PFLP-GC leader Ahmed Jibril.

Cropsey declined to elaborate on the prospect of chemical or biological weapons falling into terrorist hands, citing intelligence sources.

Cropsey said the bomb placed aboard Pan Am 103 was so sophisticated that "even with the best technology, it would have been hard to detect."

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Mandela talks exploratory

No power-sharing move

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 19, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela's talks with senior government officials are not an attempt by the jailed black leader to open power-sharing negotiations single-handedly, a prominent church leader said yesterday after visiting Mandela.

The Rev. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said he conferred with Mandela for three hours at the Victor Verster Prison farm near Cape Town, where Mandela lives in a former staff residence.

One of the principal topics, according to Chikane, was a series of meetings between Mandela and government leaders, including last week's unprecedented talks with President F.W. de Klerk.

There has been speculation in the local press, but no firm corroboration, that some members and supporters of Mandela's African National Congress guerrilla movement are worried that the 71-year-old prisoner is opening talks with the government before it meets the ANC's preconditions. These preconditions include release of all political prisoners, lifting of the state of emergency and removing ban on the ANC.

Chikane, in a statement, said Mandela "emphasised that he was not negotiating with the government, but merely trying to act as a facilitator to create conditions conducive for meaningful

negotiations."

Chikane said Mandela "looked very well. He was vibrant, alert and applied his mind carefully on every matter we discussed."

Mandela, the most popular leader among South Africa's black majority, has been jailed since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for plotting an anti-government sabotage campaign. Virtually all prominent black leaders have said they will not enter negotiations until he is freed, and there is strong speculation he will be released next month.

De Klerk has offered to negotiate a new constitution within five years that would extend political rights to blacks. He says he will not accept a one-person, one-vote system and wants whites to maintain some sort of veto power over major policy decisions.

If he's counting, Mandela will know that tomorrow is his 10,000th day in a South African prison.

As is normal around Christmas, rumours swirl that he may soon be free.

This time there seems more reason than usual to think Mandela will not have many days to add to the 10,000 he will have spent in custody for plotting to overthrow white rule.

But only five men know for sure.



Snow time, fun time

Young boys enjoy the first snowfall in Beijing by pulling each other across the frozen streets like a sled. (Reuter wirephoto)

Disgusted wife to run in Japan polls

Seeking end to money politics

TOKYO, Dec 19, (Reuter): The wife of a Japanese member of Parliament said today she was so fed up with the leadership of her husband's ruling party that she will stand for election herself on an independent ticket.

"Please don't call me Mrs," said 37-year-old Makiko Hamada, the wife of Takujiro Hamada, a representative in the lower house for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"Call me Makiko," the former Japan Airlines stewardess told reporters.

Makiko said she had enough of money politics,

which have embroiled the LDP in its biggest scandal since it came to power more than 30 years ago.

The scandal, in which the Recruit company communications conglomerate handed out unfilmed shares to gain political influence, eventually brought down Prime Minister Noboru Takeshi.

"We need politics that puts more emphasis on

individuals," Makiko said. "The LDP has been functioning as a big pack for far too long."

Makiko, a Tokyo University literature graduate, is apparently running against her husband's wishes. His aides were not available for comment.

"I'm not in this race to hurt my husband — or to save him," she said. "I want to help develop better politics in this country."

"This is not a male-female thing," she said. "If I get the support of the people, of individuals, then the country will know that you do not need a lot of money to run a campaign."

General elections for the lower house are likely to be held next February, party officials say.

Makiko's campaign will focus on repeal of a controversial sales tax, pushed through the legislature in April, and an end to money politics.

Secret Sino-US links spark row

Bush misleading: Democrats

WASHINGTON, Dec 19, (AP): President George Bush secretly sent high-level emissaries to Beijing barely a month after action against pro-democracy demonstrators, the White House has revealed.

The disclosure yesterday sparked allegations by leaders of the opposition Democratic Party that Bush had "misled the American people."

The President, meanwhile, urged critics of his China policy to "be a little patient."

Word of the July trip came as Bush was still defending himself from criticism for having sent aides to Beijing earlier this month. Brent Scowcroft, the President's national security adviser, led both missions, accompanied by Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy secretary of state.

Scowcroft's first trip, kept secret until now, came a month after Chinese troops crushed the student-led, pro-democracy movement, killing hundreds of demonstrators.

In Beijing today, China's Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that "at the request of the US side" Scowcroft was received in July as the emissary of Bush. "Such high-level contacts between China and the United States are useful and conducive to enhancing the mutual understanding," the statement said.

Democratic leaders in the US Congress said the secret trip was at odds with the Bush administration's publicly announced halt to high-level contacts and its announcement of sanctions against the Chinese government.

Congressman Sam Gejdenson, Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives' subcommittee on international economic policy and trade, said Bush had "misled the American people and the Congress."

"How does the White House square that (earlier trip) with their statements at the time that high-level contacts with the Chinese were cut off," Gejdenson said.

Ron Brown, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said, "There has not been a decision so out of touch with American values since the sale of arms to the Ayatollah (Khomeini of Iran). . . President Bush has demonstrated yet again he doesn't see the connection between human lives, human rights and an effective foreign policy."

A White House statement yesterday said the July trip was intended to underscore US "shock and concern about the violence and to impress upon the Chinese government the seriousness with which this incident was handled in the United States."

White House press secretary Marin Fitzwater said he could not rule out the possibility that Scowcroft or other US officials had made other trips to China that still remain secret.

The White House confirmed the July visit only because it was reported by the Cable News network, Fitzwater said. The December visit was disclosed after Scowcroft and Eagleburger had landed in Beijing.

Of the July trip, Fitzwater said, "the President has had years of experience with China, and he knows that face-to-face declarations are important to them."

Bush said criticism ignited by news of the Dec 8 trip was subsidizing and suggested the remaining sceptics should "be a little patient and wait and see" what the policy produces.

"They've been dealing with emotion and not facts. Once they deal with a full deck, I expect people will understand it," Bush said.

He refused to say whether China had offered any concessions in return for his decision to rekindle relations with Beijing in the aftermath of the June killings.

China and the United States have begun talks on resuming a major US-funded education programme in China, six months after Beijing halted it as bilateral relations soured.

China said today Hong Kong should not be used as a base for subversion against its communist system and warned that this endangered the territory's stability.

Two of China's most outspoken political dissidents arrived in Sydney yesterday, to the sharp criticism of Beijing.

Refugees

Japan, China reach accord

TOKYO, Dec 19, (AP): Japan and China agreed today to the repatriation of 301 Chinese who arrived in Japan this past summer disguised as Vietnamese refugees, the Foreign Ministry said.

A ship chartered by the Chinese government will leave Japan early Thursday with the refugees, including 13 children, ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said.

The ship, the Chang Bai-Hao, is scheduled to arrive in Fuzhou city in Fujian province later in the day.

Since May, 2,804 people, many of whom said they were refugees from Vietnam, have arrived in Japan by boat. However, after interviews, the Justice Ministry determined that 1,668 were Chinese.

Malaysia to send boat people back

HK warns of difficult situation

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19, (Agencies): Malaysia will repatriate Vietnamese boat people who do not qualify for refugee status and will begin talks with Vietnam on the issue next month. Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Bin Omar was quoted as saying today.

"Those who do not qualify for refugee status will be sent back," the new Straits Times quoted him as telling reporters last night.

Malaysia is the first country to announce plans to send back Vietnamese after a group of boat people from Hong Kong were forcibly repatriated last week amid an international outcry.

Malaysia has more than 20,000 Vietnamese boat people, including around 12,000 who arrived after last March 14 when countries in the region decided not to automatically accept them as refugees.

Diplomats had said Malaysia, one of the first destinations for people fleeing political uncertainty and poverty in Vietnam, could not afford to be seen to be taking a softer stand than Hong Kong.

United Nations officials in Malaysia have begun screening about 200 refugees to determine if they are genuine political refugees or economic migrants.

Abu Hassan was quoted as saying first-asylum countries such as Malaysia could not go on harbouring new arrivals who came after the cut-off period.

He criticised Vietnam for being unwilling to accept its boat people back or to be responsible for their welfare.

"If Vietnam is prepared to openly accept responsibility for them and accept them back, several nations like the United States, Australia and Canada are prepared to rehabilitate them," he said.

Morale in the detention centres plummeted, according to camp workers. There have been daily demonstrations against forced repatriation although there has been no violence.

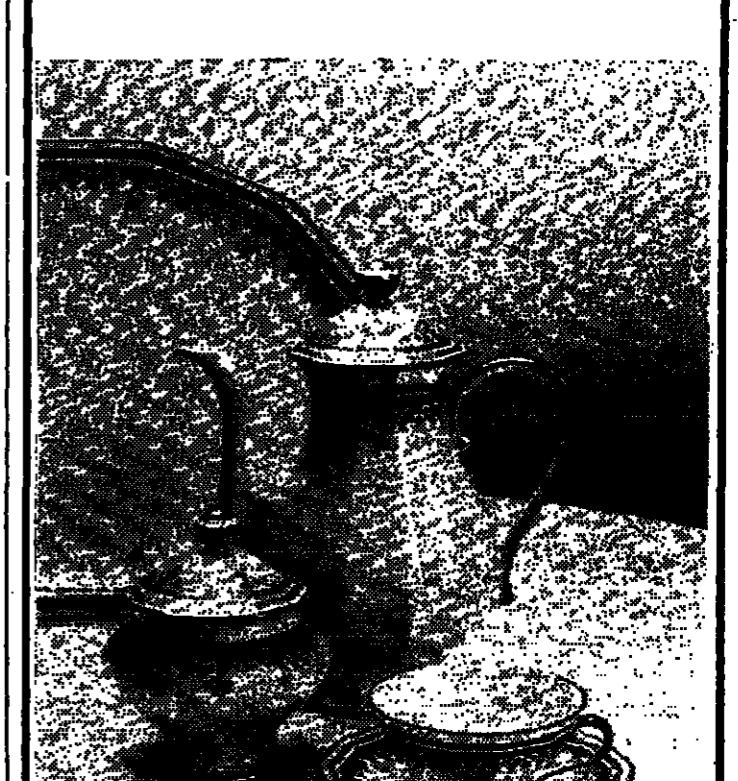
Robert van Leeuwen, chief of mission in Hong Kong for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said he feared violence if screened-out boat people were moved from detention centres in preparation for their return to Hanoi.

"There is a great risk of serious violence. I think people are very afraid," he said.

Van Leeuwen said he did not think what government officials call "mandatory return" would stop more boat people arriving from Vietnam next year.

Government officials say they are planning for up to 30,000 new arrivals when the so-called sailing season starts again in March.

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INTERNATIONAL

Shev again opposes German unity

BRUSSELS, Dec 19, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made an unprecedent visit to Nato headquarters today and later reiterated Soviet opposition to reunification of East and West Germany.

In a speech to members of European Parliament, Shevardnadze welcomed statements by Western leaders endorsing reunification only if it occurred peacefully by a free choice of the two Germanys and with their neighbours' consent.

But he also said: "The very notion of self-determination implies the need to exclude any

outside pressure on a country."

"Any appeals or advice to exercise self-determination" or prescriptions as to how and when to change the German Democratic Republic system of government are not only inappropriate but may raise doubts about the authority of the eventual allegedly free choice," Shevardnadze said.

The Soviet official then flew to London for talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before returning to Moscow later today.

At Nato headquarters earlier, Shevardnadze

met for 90 minutes with Secretary-General Manfred Woerner and ambassadors of the 16 member nations. He said the Warsaw Pact and Nato alliances must remain to assure continued stability in Europe at a time of frantic changes.

"We do believe the Warsaw treaty and Nato at this crucial stage in European development ... are able to play a very important stabilising role, to become a stabilising factor in Europe," Shevardnadze told reporters as he left Nato headquarters.

Woerner said Shevardnadze expressed

interest in setting up formal links between the two military alliances. He said any such decision would have to be made by all 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries, and he told Shevardnadze the Warsaw Pact would have to make further changes before such a move could be considered.

Both officials said they agreed an accord between the Nato and Warsaw Pact nations could be reached in 1990 on reducing non-nuclear weapons in Europe and that a US-Soviet accord could be worked out, also next year, on reducing long-range nuclear weapons.



Shevardnadze hides behind the European flag during a photo session with EEC President Jacques Delors (right) in Brussels. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Redoubt volcano belches: Christmas mail deliveries were halted in and out of Alaska by a series of volcanic eruptions that also grounded planes delivering food to remote Alaska towns, the US Postal Service said Monday.

Redoubt volcano, the exploding mountain 110 miles (180 km) southwest of Anchorage, rumbled and coughed steam and ash for hours before heaving another giant mushroom-shaped plume of ash 6 miles (10 km) into the sky in its continuing eruption, the Alaska Volcano Observatory reported. (UPI)

Bush signs bill: President George Bush on Monday signed a bill giving thousands of immigrant nurses the right to apply for status as permanent residents of the United States.

Because of a nursing shortage, the bill exempts nurses from the normal ceilings on visa allotments.

The bill covers citizens of other countries who can prove they have been employed as nurses in the United States for at least three years, and are still working as nurses. (AP) ***

Ukrainian dissident in US: The wife of Ukrainian dissident Mikhail Horyn was being treated in the United States on Monday after 103 members of the US Congress asked Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to give her a temporary exit visa. Olha Horyn, who arrived in the United States on Saturday, had applied for a temporary visa seven months ago. She did not immediately get in despite a new Soviet law that guarantees a decision on medical visa requests within three days, said Congresswoman Louise Slaughter. (AP) ***

2.5 tonnes of cocaine seized: Narcotics agents have arrested 14 people and seized 2-1/2 tons of cocaine and \$2.75 million in drug profits during raids in southern California.

The cocaine represented the second-largest seizure in the region. In September, a world-record 20-tonne haul was seized in Los Angeles.

Seven people, including residents of New York, New Jersey and Florida as well as California, were arrested Monday in Anaheim for investigation of transportation and possession of cocaine for sale. (AP) ***

Smuggling trio gets probation: A 52-year-old Canadian woman convicted of conspiring to smuggle US weapons and military hardware to Iran was fined \$10,000 on Monday and ordered out of the country.

Eileen Audrey Arab of Vancouver also was sentenced to three years of probation by US district judge Hayden W. Head Jr., who gave her one week to settle her personal affairs and leave the United States. (AP) ***

Europe

Turks on hunger strike: Thousands of asylum-seeking ethnic Turks facing Bulgaria went on hunger strike on Monday to protest a shift of policy which critics said closed the door to most refugees, national radio reported.

The new restrictions announced last week reversed Sweden's longstanding liberal immigration policies after a huge 11-month influx of refugees, the largest since World War II.

About 5,000 ethnic Turks from Bulgaria, claiming discrimination, arbitrary arrests and killings, formed the largest group among 20,000 refugees who came to Sweden in the first half of 1989.

In all of 1988, 19,000 refugees applied for asylum in Sweden. (AP) ***

Crackdown not a mistake: Poland's Communist President Wojciech Jaruzelski, in his first full interview with the Solidarity newspaper on Monday, called martial law "our common failure" but said his decision to impose the crackdown was not a mistake.

Jaruzelski was interviewed by Gazeta Wyborcza editor Adam Michnik, a long-time opposition activist imprisoned under martial law, last week. Their meeting coincided with the eighth anniversary of the Dec. 13, 1981, decree that sought to crush the independent Solidarity movement.

The interview represents "yet further proof of the unique character of Poland's history," Michnik and co-editor Helena Lucyca said in an introduction to the two-page story. (AP) ***

US to pull out more troops: The United States will pull more troops out of Western Europe, State secretary-general Manfred Woerner said yesterday.

In an interview with Reuters, he also said the Western allies needed to reassess the military threat from the Warsaw Pact in view of reforms in Eastern Europe which had reduced risks of war.

Woerner said he had a round-breaking meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at Nato's Brussels headquarters, the first by a Warsaw Pact minister. (Reuter)

Spain to nab Grapo members: Spanish police yesterday called on the public to help track down members of a small guerrilla group suspected of shooting two army officers and a police inspector over the past week.

Over 25,000 pictures of the three men and three women believed to make up Grapo (October first anti-fascist resistance groups) were posted up in airports, bus and train stations.

The obscure leftist movement, earlier believed inactive or disbanded, is suspected of killing a police inspector in Barcelona on Monday, and wounding an army major in Madrid and a colonel in Valencia last week. (Reuter)

Greece welcomes refugees: Thousands of ethnic Greeks have emigrated from the Soviet Union this year and Greece would welcome more, Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras said on Monday.

More than 5,000 ethnic Greeks, called Pontians because their home near the Black Sea is called the Pontos in Greek, have arrived this year. (Reuter)

Mayor of Rome elected: Italian Sports Minister Franco Carraro was elected Mayor of Rome on Monday, the first socialist ever chosen for the job, city officials said.

Long negotiations after elections in October produced a coalition of Socialist, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats to run the city.

The 50-year-old minister, who must give up his government job, was the choice of councilors from these four parties. ***



Wooing

Zsa Zsa Gabor attempts to play with one-year-old Saedeh Sharif Khalil, daughter of Saudi Prince Mohammed Al Fassi, in Miami Beach. (Reuter wirephoto)



Praised in death

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (left) with politburo members Lev Zaitkov (top) and ideology chief Vadim Medvedev (right with glasses) stand in front of Andrei Sakharov's coffin for a last tribute at the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow. (Reuter wirephoto)

Asia

Japan defends its decision: The Japanese government yesterday defended its decision to hand over to China the wife and child of a man suspected of hijacking a Chinese jetliner to Japan last weekend, saying they returned of their own volition.

The suspect, who was shot out a back door of the Boeing 747 after it landed in southwestern Japan Saturday, is hospitalized in Japan with a broken pelvis. His wife and 13-year-old son were flown back to Beijing aboard the jet on Sunday. (AP)

Hijacker was a wanted criminal: China said yesterday the man who hijacked a Chinese airliner last weekend claiming he was a political activist was no more than a wanted criminal.

National television news said Zhang Zhenhai, 35, had been arrested in October for embezzling 4,000 yuan (\$800) from a small farm machinery factory he ran in Handan City, in China's northern Hebei province. (Reuter)

China backs Australian proposal: China agreed yesterday that the United Nations should play a role in resolving the Cambodian conflict, but said there were many difficulties in Australia's proposal for a UN trusteeship.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told Australia's deputy secretary of foreign affairs, Michael Costello, that China appreciates Australia's efforts to resolve the Cambodian problem. (AP)

Falklands discussion: Experts from Britain and Argentina began two days of talks Monday in Paris on fishing problems around the South Atlantic Falkland Islands in another small step toward normalization relations, officials said.

A spokesman for Peru's Foreign Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was not known whether the two were killed by guerrillas or common criminals, and that the matter was under investigation. (AP)

Tourists killed in Peru: The bodies of two slain tourists, an Australian man and a woman from New Zealand who had been backpacking through Latin America, were found in a rebel-infested region, Peruvian officials said Monday.

The bodies were discovered in the same part of the southern highlands where two German tourists were murdered in May.

Call to support drug war: The five Andean presidents wound up their summit in Ecuador's Galapagos Islands on Monday urging the backing of consumer nations in the war on drugs.

They also called for fair prices for their countries' goods to discourage the cultivation of coca, which is turned into cocaine in Colombian jungle laboratories and then exported to the United States and Europe.

The success of Colombia in the struggle against drug-trafficking should be supported by clear and decided actions by the consumer countries, a final statement by the presidents of Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela and Ecuador, said. (Reuter)

Low-level exposures to gamma, X-rays pose higher cancer risk

WASHINGTON, Dec 19, (AP): Low-level exposures to x-rays and gamma rays pose a cancer risk three to four times greater than previously believed, the National Research Council reported in a study released today.

Based on new methods of estimating and assessing the health effects of radiation, the committee concluded that a 1980 study by another NRC committee significantly underestimated the cancer risk from the low level of x-rays and gamma rays.

The risk for solid tumour cancer is three times

Berlin Wall to open for Xmas

(Continued from Page 1)

including the local Communist Party headquarters, were damaged.

The city is 30 miles (50 kilometres) from the Yugoslav and Hungarian borders and has a population of 350,000.

Greek dental students from Timisoara said late yesterday after crossing into Yugoslavia that they saw shots fired indiscriminately at protesters. Dozens were killed, they said.

Another Greek student who arrived today in Yugoslavia told the AP many children were among the dead and injured

"because people had used them as a shield" thinking security forces would not harm children.

Hungarian Radio quoted a Hungarian who said he had several physician relatives working in Timisoara hospitals. He said he estimated from their telephone reports that between 300 and 400 people were killed in the city, with 250 bodies taken to one hospital alone.

Protest

About 20 per cent of the dead and wounded were ethnic Hungarians, and the other ethnic Romanians, he told the radio.

Other accounts indicated the protest grew from a few hundred

Premier endorses Havel for president

PRAGUE, Dec 19, (AP): Communist Premier Marian Calfa today urged the communist-dominated Parliament to elect opposition leader Vaclav Havel for president by the end of the year.

"It is the government's opinion that there is no alternative ... than to elect Vaclav Havel as president," Calfa told deputies in the federal assembly, who applauded the recommendation.

Thousands of students demonstrating their support for Havel's presidency filled Wenceslas Square near the federal assembly building. Pastel balloons floated overhead and red, white and blue Czechoslovak flags waved above the peaceful crowd.

The endorsement by Calfa and its reception by the deputies appeared to signal another victory of the peaceful revolution, which in one month has swept away the communist domination of Czechoslovakia's government.

The mass pro-democracy opposition has negotiated a new non-communist government that includes two former dissidents, ousted hard-line communist president Gustav Husak and introduced reforms in political, social and religious spheres.

Support has been snowballing for Havel, who would be the first non-communist to hold the office in 12 years. Husak resigned Dec 10.

Havel's only rivals are former communist premier Ladislav Adamec and Alexander Dubcek, who led the reforms of the 1968 "Prague Spring" and was removed by the Kremlin.

Cestmir Cisar, the students' candidate for president in 1988 and an unofficial contender in the current race, withdrew last night and threw his support behind Havel.

The Socialist Party, one of four small parties in the communist-dominated Parliament, also threw its support behind Havel today.

Dubcek, who enjoys tremendous support in his native Slovakia, has been unclear on whether he is in the race.

Toekes was reportedly threatened Friday by eviction from his church, where he had been hiding with his pregnant wife since masked assailants entered his home Nov 2.

On Friday, several hundred ethnic Hungarians surrounded the church to protect Toekes and his family. By Sunday, thousands of people, including ethnic Romanians, had joined the crowd.

Toekes' brother, Istvan, told the AP from Montreal the violence began when authorities tried to remove Laszlo from the church on Sunday.

The study said there also was new concern about radioactivity around nuclear facilities, and that there was new knowledge about the extent of radiation exposures from natural sources and medical uses.

The study is based partly on the medical history of 76,000 survivors of the 1945 atomic bombings in Japan, health studies of workers at nuclear facilities and the records of patients who were treated with x-rays for certain medical conditions.

Germany is 'one'

East German citizens wave West German flags outside the Dresden Hotel where West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow held their talks. The poster asks for a reunification of the two Germanys. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lithuania Reds, Moscow to split

VILNIUS, Soviet Union, Dec 19, (Reuter): Communists in the Soviet Baltic republic of Lithuania appeared set today to establish a separate party independent of Moscow, a proposal sharply criticised by Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev.

An independent Communist Party of Lithuania is the only means of enabling the party to act in the interest of the people and compete with other forces in society, Lithuanian Communist Party leader Algirdas Brazauskas told a special congress in Vilnius.

The Congress considered documents outlining the statute and policies of a separate party, loosely related to Moscow.

The move clearly sought to bolster the ruling party's credibility — badly dented in the crisis in the last year of the Sajudis secessionist movement.

Brazauskas, in a strong speech to more than 1,000 delegates at the Congress opening in a Vilnius theatre, appealed to Sajudis to join forces with him to fight for Lithuania's autonomy.

The report was prepared by the staff of the senate governmental affairs committee. The panel is investigating health research programmes of the energy department, which owns the 17 facilities that design and make nuclear arms.

More than 600,000 people have worked at the weapons plants in the last 45 years.

Sen. John Glenn, the committee's chairman, said in releasing the report that it "shows that the US nuclear weapons programme was exposing large numbers of workers to potentially dangerous health risks but did nothing to warn them."

Workers kept in the dark

Radiation risks

WASHINGTON, Dec 19, (AP): The US government failed to inform nuclear bomb factory workers after it learned in the late 1940s about serious health risks from radiation at the facilities, a congressional report said yesterday.

The report, based in part on previously secret government documents, indicated that US officials knew more about such health dangers than had been acknowledged, and that decisions were made to keep workers in the dark.

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Abouna calls for hospital link

By Nashaat Al Agha

HAMAD AL Essa Centre for Organs Transplant is the biggest and most sophisticated transplanting centre for organs in the Middle East, according to Dr George Abouna, head of the centre.

The medical team working at the centre is specialised and has had international exposure and experience in transplanting organs, he said. The centre successfully transplanted a part of the pancreas for a diabetic in October, which is the first operation of its kind in Kuwait.

Abouna added. "The medical team working at the centre is specialised and has had international exposure and experience in transplanting organs, he said. The centre successfully transplanted a part of the pancreas for a diabetic in October, which is the first operation of its kind in Kuwait.

He cited the case of Mahmoud Tamer, an employee at the Ministry of Education who was diabetic for the past 15 years. Three years ago, he suffered from failure of the kidneys and was admitted to the hospital where he lost consciousness.

He was advised to have a kidney transplant and his brother graciously contributed one of kidney's and surgery to transplant the kidney was performed on 20.11.88.

However, the patient as a diabetic was taking large quantities of insulin and came complaining from complications of insulin although his health was good after having kidney operation. He was admitted and told he could be cured from diabetes

for ever if one of his relatives donated a part of his pancreas and fortunately the same brother agreed to contribute and the transplant surgery was performed on 14.10.89. The operation was a total success and till date the patient no longer suffers from diabetes, Abouna said.

Similar surgeries have been undertaken in the USA and Europe with a success percentage of over 90 per cent. Transplanting of organs is considered the greatest medical miracles to appear on the scene during the last 30 years.

Only 20 per cent of the victims of road accidents in the country supplying their organs could meet the needs of patients in Kuwait, Abouna said. But, he criticised the hospitals in Kuwait for not notifying the centre about deaths reported at these hospitals.

He said that the centre needs staff to contact relatives of the deceased to convince them to donate the organs of the deceased.

In the USA there are 60 units doing this job and in Europe there are 50 units. Saudi Arabia has also set up a unit for this purpose. Saudi Arabia also linked all Saudi hospitals with computers to notify the unit about deaths and have been successful in obtaining 160 kidneys and seven hearts.

Major medical conferences to be held

QUOTING official sources, Al Seyassah said that the Ministry of Public Health will during the first months of the coming year organise a number of major medical conferences.

The paper added that the 3rd conference on AIDS to be hosted by Kuwait during February 12 to 17, 1990 would have 50 doctors participating from countries around the Mediterranean, such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Emirates, Qatar, Syria, Oman, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, Cyprus, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, besides experts from the World Health Organisation.

The sources said that Kuwait would also host a training course on ways to ensure protection from radiology in medical uses. The course will be held during the period from March 3 to 15, 1990, organised by the Ministry of Public Health in co-operation with the World Health Organisation and the International Agency for Nuclear Energy.

The sources also said that the 2nd International Conference for the Middle East Society on Transplants would also be held in Kuwait during the period from March 11 to 15 with the participation of 150 specialised doctors from various parts of the world.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Map project tender

THE survey department at Kuwait Municipality has announced that it intends to tender for a "Kuwait Mapping Project" estimated to be in the vicinity of KD750,000. The project is to begin implementation in 1990 and to be completed in 18 months.

The importance of the project is represented in delineating constructional and population development in the country which is experiencing rapid growth, an official source at the municipality said.

He said that the map is designed to create a methodology to review and follow up on such developments. The last alteration conducted on maps was conducted in 1980.

Computer monitors

QUOTING well-informed sources, Seyassah said that the Ministry of Electricity and Water will provide its consumers' affairs centres in various locations in the country with computer monitors, within the framework of its forthcoming development plan.

The computer monitors proposed for installation would provide readings on electrical and fresh/brackish water consumption for each consumer, and would keep record of the balance of payments made by the consumer, the sources added.

The sources pointed out that these new equipments would facilitate the customer's accounting procedures. The installation of these monitors would take place over the coming few months.

Barjes receives students

THE governor of Hawalli Abdul Latif Mohammad Al Barjes received at his office yesterday a delegation of youngsters from Abdullah Al Omar Elementary School for Boys.

The governor told the guest students about the vital role played by the traffic police in regulating traffic flow and encouraged them to cooperate with the traffic policemen who were always willing to give them guidance and help them avoid traffic accidents.

Driving school discussions

A LOCAL daily learnt yesterday that Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, minister of interior will discuss the developments and construction phases of buildings and schools of the Kuwaiti Company for Teaching Driving.

Discussions are scheduled with the chairman and members of the board of the company at a meeting to be held today.

Presently, the company is now building the first driving school near the headquarters of the General Traffic Administration in Shuaiba and the buildings are expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Government housing

Kuwaiti women with foreign spouses ineligible

THE new housing system does not give Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis the right to get a government house, Naser Al Roudhan, minister of state for housing affairs said.

Speaking on this subject, he clarified that the government house is provided by the state to the Kuwaiti family comprising a Kuwaiti man and his Kuwaiti wife. He said that the children of Kuwaiti

women married to non-Kuwaitis are non-Kuwaitis because they carry the nationality of their father — which means that this family is not Kuwaiti according to the law.

Pending

Kuwaiti men married to non-Kuwaiti women are eligible to get government housing, he said.

The minister said that the National Housing Authority has 5,000 applications pending for housing from Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis. However, according to the new system, these women will not be eligible.

The authority has ambitions to build over 27,000 housing units according to the next five-year-plan 1990/1995 and the

NHA has succeeded in obtaining over half of its requirements in this respect, the minister said.

There are continual contacts among the NHA, Municipality, Higher Housing Authority and Kuwait Oil Company to get the required land for housing projects in the next plan. The authority will be distributing about 2,500 land allotments to citizens a year, Roudhan said.

Furniture prices on the increase

FURNITURE and carpet sheds previously located in Sulaibikhat have been relocated and are represented in modern showrooms in the Farwaniya area. A local daily interviewed a number of furniture dealers and shoppers to highlight their opinions on prices and organisation at the new site.

Ibrahim Salem, the owner of a furniture showroom said that the goods displayed are manufactured locally. He added that he had a shop in Sulaibikhat with KD4 as monthly rental fees. Now he is paying KD1,500 as monthly rent at his new showroom in Farwaniya. He stated that the situation of profit was much better in Sulaibikhat than in Farwaniya, but added that Farwaniya shops are cleaner and more organised.

Ibrahim pointed out that the cost of materials like wood and paints have increased leading to an increase in the price of furniture. He stressed that all displayed furniture are new and that most furniture dealers face strong competition from other dealers.

Abdul Wahab Salam, a carpet showroom owner said that no modifications were made on the prices of carpets despite moving from Sulaibikhat to Farwaniya.

He said that he does not face any difficulties here in Farwaniya except for air-conditioning which he said is very weak.

He added that most carpets are imported from Japan and Mexico and stored in Sulaibikhat until they reach the showroom.

Regarding the level of sales, he said that average sales ranges between KD700-800 but added that profits were better before than now particularly after the Manakh Crisis.

Basheer Ahmad stated that customs charges play an essential role in indicating the prices of furniture. He indicated that dealers have to pay 25 per cent customs charges on all imported furniture after paying only 4 per cent in the past. He indicated that his showroom monthly rent is KD 700.

Basheer stressed that Kuwaiti made furniture is higher in quality than European furniture and that customers prefer locally manufactured furniture over imported furniture.

Ahmad a shopper stressed that prices at Farwaniya furniture and carpet showrooms are cheaper than prices in Hawalli because shops in Farwaniya don't pay labour fees and wages.

Fatima who came to shop for furniture at the same Farwaniya location for the second time said that prices of furniture are very high. She added that she is facing difficulty in finding modern furniture pointing out that most shops in Farwaniya displayed items intended for customers with old tastes and for middle income.

Ali Haji stated that the Farwaniya market is more organised than the previous Sulaibikhat market and prices are adequate but expensive sometimes.

Hot chase yields hashish and heroin

FOLLOWING an hour and half of "hot chase" by car, security personnel yesterday successfully apprehended four people for possession of hashish and heroin.

Security sources told a local daily that they had kept a watch on the movements on the accused and ascertaining that they were in actual possession of the contraband moved to arrest them. However, the criminals tried to escape in a vehicle which was hotly pursued by security men and successfully brought to a halt.

A search revealed half a kilo of hashish and a quarter of heroin.

The suspects, identified as a Saudi national and three Kuwaitis have been referred to investigative authorities.

4 years for bootlegger

KUWAIT'S Misdemeanour Court sentenced a man to four years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation and a KD100 fine on being convicted for trading in alcohol.

The court was told that the accused was kept under close surveillance by security personnel on being informed that he was dealing in liquor.

An undercover agent successfully befriended the accused and arranged to purchase a quantity of alcohol. On completion of the transaction and receiving the money, plainclothes security men apprehended the accused and recovered the marked currency from his possession. A search of his residence revealed a quantity of the contraband.

3 months for resisting

KUWAIT'S Misdemeanour Court sentenced a man to three months imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation for resisting arrest.

The court was told that security men raided the accused's house on information that he and his brother were trading in alcohol. However, in the process of the raid, the accused forcibly tried to escape, causing a security personnel to receive an injury to his back as a result of the convict violently shoving the officer.

Fraudulent dealer arrested

A LOCAL Arabic daily yesterday reported that security men arrested a leading money exchange dealer who headed the list of such dealers accused of fraud and cheating.

According to the source, the man and some other money exchangers were accused of collecting the savings of citizens under the pretext of investing them in currency trading.

The accused, it is alleged, left the county when the Ministry of Commerce ordered the closure of his company. The money collected by him from citizens has been estimated to be in hundreds of thousand of dinars.

The accused was arrested on his return to Kuwait after a long absence abroad.

Gulfamerica conference aims to signal new business opportunities

WASHINGTON: Citing millions of dollars in trade opportunities, the government of Bahrain announced that it would host Gulfamerica's prestigious 1990 business conference which promises to promote trade between US companies and the Arab Gulf states.

The government of Bahrain further announced the establishment of an inter-ministerial conference. The conference is being held under the auspices of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), led by Secretary General Abdullah Bishara, and in cooperation with the GCC Federated Chambers of Commerce, headed by Sheikh Saad Al Mojel.

Gulfamerica President Michael Saba applauded Bahrain and the GCC, stating their support came in the spirit of the conference, which is dedicated to forging closer trade ties between the United States and the Arab Gulf.

Saba predicted that the conference will demonstrate a new willingness on the part of American businesses to market themselves internationally — particularly in the Arab Gulf, a region that shows all the signs of a major economic boom in the 1990s.

"There's been a lot of concern recently about America losing its competitive advantage," Saba said. "But we are already hearing from US corporations — big and small — that are ready to travel halfway around the world in order to do business in the Gulf."

"Smart American businessmen realise that the Arab Gulf states have proven to be some of our most reliable trading partners," Saba continued. "They also see a region ready to expand upon successful development programmes after weathering a tough decade of oil price cuts and the Iran-Iraq war."

In June 1988, Gulfamerica sponsored a conference in Houston that facilitated over \$200 million worth of US-Arab business for participating companies. Gulfamerica's success lies in its ability to involve business and governmental leaders from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and the United States. It also stems from a unique computer programme that matches the vendor's products and services with potential clients.

"Gulfamerica uses a two-pronged approach," Saba explained. "First, the computer matching of businesses provides real, practical assistance to attendees. Second, they are able to learn about issues that can hamper or promote trade, including intellectual property, technology transfer and boycott laws."

1988 Houston conference participants included honoured keynote President Gerald Ford and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bin Faisal Al Saud, Honorary Chairmen Governor John Connally and Sheikh Ismail Abudawood.

In support of the conference, Bahrain has established an inter-ministerial committee that includes Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Yousef El Shirawi, Minister of Development and Industry and Habib Qassim, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture.

Two of the speakers for the 1990 conference will be Prince Fahd Bin Abdullah, Assistant Minister of Defence and Aviation and Head of the Saudi Offset Programme, and Prince Abdullah Bin Faisal Bin Turki, Secretary General of the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, the largest development programme in Saudi Arabia.

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice Rector for Community Service and Information Centre for Community Service and Continuing Education

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Centre for Community Service and Continuing Education has the pleasure to announce that:

1) Effective from the Second Semester of the academic year, 1989/1990, the following English-medium courses will be offered:

- Arabic as a foreign language.
- English, French and German.
- English typing.
- Introduction to Accounting.

2) Applications should be submitted at the Registration Hall, Khaldiya Campus, during the period from Saturday 23, to Tuesday 26 December, 1989, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

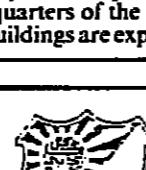
3) Applicants must be over 18 years of age.

4) Applicants should produce their Civil Identity Card on request.

5) A deposit of KD10/- is paid upon application. This is deducted from the overall tuition fees.

6) Three hours of instruction are given per week, divided into two, one and half hour sessions.

7) Classes begin on Saturday, 17 February, 1990.



Training course

The Public Authority for Applied Education & Training organised a training course for a number of employees at the ministries and state establishments. The course aims at qualifying these employees to be trainers at their ministries. The course was opened by the director of Training, planning and co-ordination department at the authority, Mansour Al Mishari. The course is due to be closed January 21, 1990. A number of theoretical and practical lectures on training will be held.

Jy. Mis 150

Kuwait medical aid to Lebanon continues

Two hospitals funded

THE director of the Quality-Control Department at the Ministry of Health Dr Abdul Aziz Khalaf has said that the government continues to provide all sorts of medical aid to the Lebanese people. Such aid is particularly directed to those living in the southern part of the country due to their inhuman living conditions under the Israeli occupation authorities.

He told a local daily that the government of Kuwait funded the building of a

hospital in the city of Nabatiya with a construction cost of KD700,000. The hospital has been equipped with 75 beds, and all needed medical equipment and facilities.

He pointed out that the ministry intends to send more equipment and furnishing to the said hospital to meet the existing shortages.

The government also provided continued aid to the Barid Hospital in Beirut,

which had been the object of bombardment on several occasions. Total aid so far presented to this hospital amounts to KD1,150,000.

He added that the government provided other sorts of medical aid to different other medical facilities and health centres in Lebanon, particularly to the Islamic Hospital in Tripoli. Additionally, HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister have donated generously to medical aid in Lebanon.

He also said that sometimes Kuwait would respond to special requests for help to Lebanon, but on the whole aid flowed continuously, especially for the people in Southern Lebanon.

He pointed out that the medical aid to Lebanon was part of the government's continuous aid to Lebanon since the start of the tragic incidents in that country. It is intended to continue for as long as need for medical aid is there.

He also said that sometimes Kuwait would respond to special requests for help to Lebanon, but on the whole aid flowed continuously, especially for the people in Southern Lebanon.

Maid assault sees dramatic increase

Brutal physical and mental abuse

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A 23-YEAR-OLD Sri Lankan housemaid was barely two months in Kuwait when she became the victim of an attempted rape.

"The family had gone out; no one was in the house. My employer came back and tried to grab me, I ran away from him and to escape from his clutches, I jumped from the window," she said.

She broke her teeth and suffered other injuries. Before any action could be taken on her behalf, the employer registered a case of

Diplomats are quick to point out that not all employers are cruel but there is a small percentage of people who treat the maids like "their property."

"The women (maids) are not treated like flesh and blood; an employer's only concern is that she must complete the two years contract, regardless of the atrocities she may suffer," explained one diplomat.

He insists: "This concept must change. The women are human beings; employers must realise that they come to earn a mere KD30 per month, admittedly due to the hardships they suffer back home. No one should suffer for earning a livelihood."

Hysteria

A large number of Sri Lankan maids who suffer brutal physical abuse are brought to the embassy in a state of hysteria requiring psychiatric care. One Sri Lankan diplomat claims that many hospitals refuse to admit such cases because of the absence of "papers." Employers hold passports and other documents of all maids in Kuwait as a common practice.

Physical abuse, beating with hoses and burning, are the most common cause for hysterical behaviour, he said.

"When a maid becomes mad, employers dump her at the embassy door," said a diplomat.

The diplomat said a majority of the maids are not literate and therefore, don't know their employer's addresses. In such instances, the embassy traces the addresses by referring back to the recruiting agent in Colombo. This takes time, delaying legal action, if any, that can be taken against alleged offenders. Even if the employers are traced, diplomats claim that many don't want to co-operate.

The women stay at the embassy during the day and are referred to the police station at night.

"There is no shelter for them," said one diplomat. The law punishes anyone who shelters "runaway maids." The embassies are not equipped to keep them for longer periods, due to the lack of space; they can't be sent to relatives or friends' homes because of fear of retribution.

Custody

In some cases, the maids are handed back to the employer. As the sponsor is held responsible for his maid, the law gives him "final custody", even if that woman refuses to return to her employer. If the maid refuses to return to the employer, she is sent to the deportation camp and sent home without receiving any of her rightful dues, like salary.

According to unofficial estimates, an average of 60 to 100 maids are deported each month.

Jordan loan

WASHINGTON, Dec 19. (Kuna): The World Bank announced here today that it was granting Jordan a loan totalling \$150 million that will be used to aid this country's industrial and trade reforms.

The loan will support the Jordanian government's ongoing structural adjustment programme designed to lay the basis for sustainable long-term growth.

The reform programme includes measures to ensure a competitive and stable macroeconomic environment, improve the competitiveness and efficiency of industry and trade, and rationalise public expenditures, according to the World Bank.

Most victims are sent home

Help available, says Cortel

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

SINCE 1986, 10 rape cases were registered on behalf of Filipino maids by the Philippines embassy in Kuwait. These were the cases that were brought to the attention of the Philippines embassy, claims its legal officer Sofronio R. Cortel.

"We are not aware of the cases that are not brought to our notice," Filipino diplomats say.

In the absence of statistics, it is hard to judge the extent of the problem among the Filipino maids.

In Kuwait, rape is a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment or death by hanging. Jail terms range from 10 to 25 years, depending on the evidence presented in the case.

Kuwait's law is strict about how to deal with rapists. The Criminal Law, Article Nos. 186 to 197, define the circumstances under which a rape case can be filed in a court of law. It also covers the punishments that can be meted out.

It takes between three days to one week to file a criminal case against the accused. First, a police complaint has to be lodged. The case is referred for investigations, with medical tests done by doctors at the Medico-Legal Department situated in Farwanya.

Evidence

A rape case is made on the basis of oral testimony, documentary evidence or medical report, detailing evidence of physical abuse, clothes worn at the time of the incident.

If a woman cries rape, and gets in touch with her embassy, Cortel questions her to assess the situation.

"We conduct initial investigation (to establish credibility, and if in our assessment we are convinced that rape has been committed, we approach the

Rape victim sees no solace

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

"HE was an animal," said a housemaid who was brutally raped by her employer's son six months after her arrival to Kuwait.

The 20-year-old Filipino maid is now being treated in a local hospital. She has been waiting for over a month to get her passport from her Arab employers so that she can return to her home in Mindanao, Philippines.

The girl came to Kuwait to earn sufficient money to continue her studies to "become a midwife". Her dream has been shattered. Her desire to earn a living has also vanished. The tears have dried, but she can't hide the pain in her eyes.

Dejected, and said, she hangs her head in shame as she talks in monosyllables of her traumatic experience.

"What have I got? Nothing, nothing, not even my virginity," she said.

She was alone in her employer's home when the incident occurred. "It was just after six pm, and my employer, his wife and the children went out. I was cleaning the kitchen, when my employer's son sneaked into the room, locked the door and raped me.

She was bleeding profusely when she was taken to hospital by her employer's wife and daughter.

The non-payment syndrome has become a chronic problem.

"Some maids have not been paid for as many as 24 months, the duration of their contract. Oth-

ers have not received payment between five and 20 months," said one diplomat.

In the event of non-payment, a maid is referred to the Immigra-

tion Department, which tries to force employers to pay her.

There are about 86,000 Sri Lankans in Kuwait. Of these, 80 per cent are housemaids.

of violating the Geneva Convention "by its" shameful attitude towards that humanitarian issue."

Iraq has asked Gandinger to raise with the Iranians the possibility of a Red Cross official visiting Iran to check the conditions of Iraqi prisoners there.

The two countries exchanged more than 400 sick or wounded prisoners under a Red Cross-sponsored accord last year.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said at the United Nations early this month that Iran would shortly release an unspecified number of sick and wounded Iraqi POWs.

Iran and Iraq still hold about 100,000 prisoners, although a UN-brokered ceasefire ended

fighting in their eight-year war in August 1988.

Gandinger, who visited Iran last week, is trying to persuade both countries to abide by article 118 of the Geneva Convention calling for the release of all war prisoners immediately after the end of hostilities.

The Iraqi News Agency INA quoted Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz as telling International Committee of the Red Cross envoy Angelo Gandinger, Iran "insists on keeping the issue of war prisoners unresolved to use it as a pressure card for bargaining."

Iraq called on the world community to urge Iran to accept an immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners. INA quoted him as accusing Tehran

Concern over shrimp mortality

By Dianna Abou Haldar
Arab Times staff

SCIENTISTS in GCC countries are highly concerned about the destruction of a large portion of shrimp nursery zones in the Gulf caused by development plans along the coast of their countries.

In a set of recommendations announced yesterday at the end of the first "Kuwait Symposium on Shrimp and Fin Fisheries Management in GCC countries," they called on concerned

authorities to minimise marine pollution and provide adequate protection to such zones.

They also recommended that GCC co-ordinate a number of collaborative studies about the Gulf's fisheries. Studies are to include catch data and stock assessment of major commercial fish species as well as identifying major shrimp nursery areas.

The GCC's Secretariat General was asked to form a group of experts to visit member countries and report on what is needed to carry out and implement these

studies.

As for Kuwait, experts recommended that the policy of opening the shrimp fishing season on September 1 should be held for the next two years because it has proven effective in increasing the catch. Also, fishing in Kuwait Bay and the three-mile coastal zone should be enforced more strictly. Heavy mortality in young shrimp is registered in these areas, the thing that definitely reduces the number of adult population available for the spring fishing season.



Bhutan National Day

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan Lyonpo Sangye Penjor held a reception to mark his country's National Day. Picture shows the Bhutanese envoy and Mrs Penjor receiving Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad.

Divorce rate

Increase causing pressure on housing services: Roudhan

DIVORCE in Kuwait has dangerous social consequences on the couple, offspring, family members and society, Naser Al Roudhan, Minister of State for Housing Affairs said.

Citing statistics, he said that the divorce phenomenon in Kuwait is increasing year and said that in 1987, 30 per cent of all (Kuwaiti) marriages resulted in divorces.

This increase causes heavy pressure on housing services because divorced Kuwaiti women submit applications to get government houses if they have children living with them. These applications total 33,000 and increase by an average of 4,000 applications a year, he said.

The house is registered in the name of both man and woman and is intended to prevent men from getting more than one house in case of getting married to more than one wife or having more than one divorced wife.

He added that in case of divorce, the husband can be obliged to divide the house between him and his divorced wife and make separate entrances for each. This helps to keep children in the same house with their father and mother, he said.

The NHA gives authority to the man to divide the house with his divorced wife or to take the house and rent a house for his divorced wife and their children at his own expense.

The NHA studies each case of the divorced women to determine her social circumstances, number of members of her family and ages of her children. It also takes into consideration the financial situation of the divorced man, members of his family and his ability to rent a separate house for his divorced wife and children, he said.

Commenting on the high divorce rate in Kuwait and particularly among Kuwaitis, Dr Fahd Al Nasir of the sociology department said yesterday that about one-third of Kuwaiti married couples break-up before the end of the first year of marriage.

Statistics (1987) reveal that 608 of a total of 1,928 divorce cases had not completed their first year of

marriage. Naser said and commented that he blamed the uniform legislation on marriage and divorce in Kuwait.

He said that although Islamic Law is implemented in Kuwait on this issue, some parts and proceedings of the Islamic Law are not properly implemented. As an example he said that removing the precondition of bringing two eye witnesses on divorce made deciding the divorce very easy for the husband.

Factors

Additionally not committing husbands to strictly follow government procedures in divorcing their wives, contributes to making divorce very simple.

Further, he said that during the period after revocable divorce, the wife should remain at the same house of her husband in a bid to provide them another opportunity of solving their disputes. This does not occur in Kuwait, he said.

Another important factor that contributes to increase divorces is that divorce can occur outside courts. In some Arab countries, no divorce outside personal status courts is considered legal and in some Arab countries, a husband who makes the divorce outside the court is severely punished.

He said that the birth of the first baby is considered by sociologists as the best means of stabilising marriages. He said that another reason for the increasing divorce rate is that it has become an accepted way of life by society.

The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Khaled Al Jassar said that the lack of the true Islamic spirit among some husbands, makes them misuse the right entrusted to them in taking the divorce decision. He said that some husbands use the right to divorce in a way not accepted by Islam. Some use it as a weapon to threaten their wives, while in Islam divorce should be taken only when life becomes impossible.

The Minister said that through the cases brought to the Fatwa department in the ministry "we came across some divorce cases that are really painful and sad and violate the right of divorce."

Kuwaiti envoy

KUWAIT, Dec 19. (Kuna): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today received in his office Kuwaiti Ambassador to Democratic Yemen Fawzi Al Jasem.

Sheikh Jaber also received a Greek press delegation.

The Greek delegation came at an invitation of Sheikh Jaber to make a film on Kuwait for the country's 29th National Day.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

What on earth would man do with himself if something did not stand in his way? — H.G. Wells, English writer-historian (1866-1946).

Ethiopia races to avert mass hunger

ADDIS ABABA, (Reuter): Ethiopia faces a race against time to avert mass hunger, barely five years after the great famine of 1984-85.

"Time is running out," said a senior foreign relief official who was reluctant to speak on the record because of what he called a sensitive stage in the relief drive.

And the acting administrator of the US Agency for International Aid (USAID), Mark Edelman, has warned that the country may face a disaster rivaling that of 1984-85.

The relief operation, threatened by civil war, has become clouded, however, by misunderstandings over possible arrangements to get food to people in strife-torn areas and sharp differences between the government and donors over just how many people are at risk.

The State Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRRC) has rejected an estimate from the UN World Food Programme (WFP), supported by British aid organizations, that up to four million people in the drought-ravaged northern provinces could need emergency food aid next year.

Appeal

It has so far stood by its original Oct 25 estimate of 1.85 million people, for whom it has appealed to donors to provide 377,400 tonnes of food "as quickly as possible."

USAID said last week, however, that up to five million Ethiopians faced starvation and that an estimated 750,000 tonnes of food were needed to meet the emergency.

RRRC officials were not available for comment on the conflicting assessments of the threat.

Adding to the confusion were reports last week quoting Kenya's president Daniel Arap Moi as saying that Ethiopia's President Mengistu Haile Mariam had agreed to a proposal — also put to rebel leaders in Eritrea and Tigray — to open aid "corridors" in those war-racked northern provinces.

The Kenyan Foreign Ministry, without denying the remarks attributed to Moi, softened his comments the next day when it released a statement clarifying that there was no clearcut agreement on safe passage for aid.

Ethiopia, it noted, "is in the process of consultation in finding the best and effective ways of alleviating the problem..."

Up to one million peasants died in the 1984-85 famine because of their needs in time.

Worried

Foreign relief workers are worried about the donor response to the current threat, pointing out that once aid is pledged it takes four to six months to reach a local distribution centre from which it can be passed on to those in need.

"The level of pledges is critical...pledges are a problem," said one relief official. There was little doubt a crisis loomed, he said, but added: "It's made worse because of the access problem, the time problem."

Pledges by the end of last week totalled 262,000 tonnes of food, considered by some to be barely enough to cover the estimated needs of Eritrea which the government has singled out as the major problem area.

Of those it has counted at risk the RRRC says 1.25 million people are in Eritrea, where the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has waged a 28-year-old war in pursuit of independence.

Although the EPLF controls large areas of the province, relief trucks have been able to travel relatively freely from the Red Sea port of Massawa to many of the more heavily populated areas.

Access

However, they have virtually no access to Tigray where rebels of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), fighting since 1975 to topple Mengistu, have seized control and have driven south into neighbouring Wollo and Gondar provinces — nearer to the capital Addis Ababa.

Much of the dispute over numbers threatened by hunger appears to centre on Tigray.

The RRRC's latest report to donors, dated Nov 26 and published before the recent USAID estimate, said:

"It was only at the peak of the 1984/85 major famine in Ethiopia that the number of people seeking assistance in Eritrea, Tigray and Wollo was anywhere close to the figure currently given by the local office of the WFP."

Evidence

"All evidence available to date...shows that, except in a few pockets, there is no threat of famine in Wollo due to natural causes nor does the situation in Tigray look anywhere close to that of 1984/85."

The specific reference to "natural causes" — implicitly drought — may not take into full account so-called man-made problems, such as combatant movements, associated difficulties faced by farmers in tending or gathering crops, and possible fear of conscription encouraging peasants to neglect fields.

Because of difficulties in surveying rebel-held territory, the RRRC may want more evidence to corroborate conclusions drawn by other parties.

The picture should become clearer next Friday when the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is expected to publish its assessment of this year's grain crop and possible food aid needs, which a visiting mission completed last week.

Relief officials say the government may have been waiting for the FAO report as the critical yardstick in defining its own final position on the number of people at risk.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1582 — Gregorian calendar is adopted in France.

1694 — Frederick of Brandenburg restores Schweidnitz to Holy Roman Empire.

1712 — Swedes defeat Danes at Gadebusch, Poland.

1830 — London conference of Britain, France, Austria, Prussia and Russia agrees with Belgium on separation from Holland.

1852 — British forces annex Pegu, lower Burma, in war with Burmese.

1912 — London peace conference between Turkey and Balkan states.

1922 — Fourteen republics of Russia form Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1928 — Britain recognizes Nanking government (Kuomintang) of China.

1954 — France sends 20,000 troops to Algeria.

1957 — European nuclear energy agency is inaugurated.

1972 — Gunmen kill eight men and wound five others in one of bloodiest days in Northern Ireland conflict.

1973 — Spain's Premier Luis Carrero Blanco is killed when assassins bomb his car in Madrid.

1985 — Three gunmen end one-day siege of courtroom in Nantes, France, and release all but two of their original 30 hostages as they head for airport getaway.

1986 — Up to 30,000 students march for democracy through streets of Shanghai in China's largest demonstration since era of Cultural Revolution.

1988 — Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of ruling United National Party is elected president of strife-torn Sri Lanka.

Loopholes in controls exploited

Iraq boosts missile industry

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP): Iraq's drive to build an advanced arms industry is accelerating, much of it due to high technology acquired despite Western efforts to curb a Middle East missile buildup.

Iraq announced Dec 8 that it had launched a 48-ton, three-stage rocket capable of putting a satellite in space, and had test-fired two surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 2,140 miles (2,000 kms).

The announcement took analysts by surprise and heightened speculation that the region could soon be seeing a new missile arms race.

Industrialized states, seeking to curb missile proliferation in the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, have sought to curb the sale of sensitive equipment to Third World countries. Affected by the curbs are state-of-the-art computers, guidance systems, heat-resistant materials such as carbon-carbon and computer-controlled machinery.

Bur Iraq, like some other nations, has exploited loopholes in controls imposed by the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Japan in a 1987 agreement known as the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Along with its legitimate purchases, analysts say, Iraq has evaded technology restrictions by seeking help from other Third World countries with advanced military technology and by forging close ties with Western companies that possess the technology Iraq wants. Several investigations are under way of Western companies that allegedly made deals with Iraq in violation of export restrictions.

Iraq, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Libya are all missile powers now. All except Libya have weapons capable of hitting Israel.

With superpower detente diminishing the threat of a US-Soviet conflict, analysts fear the most dangerous missile threat now is posed by spread in the Third World of rockets capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads.

One of the key weapons in President Saddam Hussein's effort to make Iraq a major regional power is a two-stage ballistic missile, the Condor 2, capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads up to 620 miles (1,000 kms).

Iraq has been widely reported to be developing it with Argentina and Egypt since 1984.

"Iraq's arms industry is quite advanced now and



President Saddam Hussein

Iraq is certainly determined to build his missiles," said Hans-Heino Kopietz, a Middle East analyst with London's International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"From what we've been able to determine, the Iraqis are capable of producing Condor 2, but they still lack a reliable guidance system. They've been trying to get one from the Germans," he said in a telephone interview.

Some analysts believe Iraq may be able to test fire a Condor 2 prototype in the next year or two.

Israel claims Iraq already has an accurate guidance system. Even so, one Israeli source told the Associated Press earlier this year that Condor 2 was a long way from being deployed.

Meanwhile, the Iraqis are negotiating with Brazil's space agency for a \$50-million satellite technology deal, analysts say.

Ozilio Silva, director of the Brazilian agency and a former president of Brazil's Embraer Aircraft Manufacturer, visited Baghdad earlier this year and a team of Iraqi scientists was in Rio de Janeiro last

May.

The French, Iraq's second biggest arms supplier after the Soviet Union, sent an aerospace industry team to Baghdad in November to discuss co-operation. Diplomats in Baghdad said this included high technology transfer.

Iraq's drive to build up its own defence industry, like Iran's was spurred by the eight-year Gulf war. It was the first recent conflict in which the belligerents hammered each other's cities with missiles, a nightmare vision of future Third World wars.

Until recently, most military analysts scoffed at Iraq's claims it could produce advanced weapons systems.

But the Iraqis unveiled a wide range of technology at the Baghdad arms fair in April. Among the weapons on display were the lion of Babylon tank, a locally assembled version of the Soviet T-72 that included systems developed by Iraqi engineers, and several tactical missiles apparently modeled on Soviet systems.

Iraqi officials have defended Baghdad's drive to develop its own arms industry, citing the threat from Iran despite last year's ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Tareq Aziz, declared in New York on Dec 14: "We have to take into consideration for our own defence purposes that our country is still being threatened by Iran. We're to a situation of no war and no peace."

"We have to do whatever we can to provide the necessary defensive means to defend our country if the other side thinks again of the renewal of hostilities."

Iraqi officials decline to discuss Iraq's purchasing network, but say Baghdad will get hold of the technology it needs anywhere it can.

In August, the US federal reserve discovered that the Atlanta, Georgia, branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale de Lavoro had extended unauthorized credit of nearly \$3 billion to Iraq since February 1988. Baghdad received as much as \$1.7 billion worth of credit from the bank before the affair was uncovered. Italy's treasury minister, Guido Carli, has confirmed that some of the credits were used to purchase strategic materials and military-related equipment.

Letters to the editor

Election gimmick

Sir: While appreciating the comments made by "A reader" (AT, Dec 14) regarding Vincent D'souza and gaiving some sort of publicity for the proposed Goan idea to jointly form a stronger forum for further giving the Goans a chance to unite and attain their proposed goals, please allow me to voice my points in this regard.

The only real fact in this letter was that Kurwan Goans Association, being the oldest association, in principle opposed to the idea of forming this "Goan Apex Body."

It can be noted that it took Vincent D'souza two decades to propose this idea. Why? The answer is quite simple. May be while the sun shines, "A reader" is not only commenting that Vincent D'souza is the only acceptable leader among the Goan community but also directly proposing for his election to the prime position for the proposed "Goan Apex Body". Well, whoever said that the Goans lack election campaigners for each person were surely totally wrong.

Let's see Vincent D'souza is even proposed, leave alone being elected. The Arab Times readers in particular the Goans, will realize that this was a publicity and election gimmick for Vincent D'souza after all by "A reader."

While there's a lot said and debated about, let us see how the Goans will forego their proposed ideas and join the ranks of their counterpart, The United Malaysians Organisation (UMO) and the like. I wish this organization all the best for every success.

Camillo Braganza (Salcette), Safat.

Kidnapping is wrong

SIR: By what tenet of religion or any other civilised norm an act to kidnap, and thereby to torment an uncoerced maiden to press for political demands can be justified.

The question must have agitated the mind of many God-fearing and sensitive people over the recent outrageous melodrama in Kashmir valley involving the kidnapping of young doctor Rubaiya, daughter of prominent Kashmiri Muslim Mufti Mohammed Saeed within hours of his appointment as Home Minister of India.

The suspense is now over with a prisoner swap deal but the event will remain on record as a disgusting episode. Whether one hijacks a plane for political ends or kidnaps an innocent girl for similar purpose, the disturbing implications of either act are essentially the same. Did the persons or organisation responsible for this bravado really score a moral victory? One wonders.

Dr Azimushsham Haider, Faitha

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"After an hour and a half of discussion, Miles Jakes accepted political responsibility for the decision. But we distinguished between political and criminal responsibility and Jakes claimed he gave no order for the killing key posts with his supporters and relatives.

His wife Elena is first deputy prime minister and a member of the ruling party politburo, while his son Nicu is minister of youth.

Ceausescu, who appeared to shrug off the latest unrest by going ahead with a visit to Iran on Monday, has repeatedly denounced the liberal reforms in other East European countries and called for adherence to strict communist policies.

Last June he called the idea of reverting to a multi-party system "very dangerous" and, according to Polish reports, he tried to persuade the Warsaw Pact to prevent the Communist Party's surrender of power in Poland last summer.

Western analysts have pointed to two threats to his rule.

One is his economic austerity programme, which he said in April had enabled Romania to pay off its foreign debt but which has led severe shortages of food, fuel and electricity.

relations with the West and the crisis at home forced him economically closer to his socialist allies.

In 1982 and 1983, reeling from the effects of soaring raw material costs that hit his over-stretched industrialisation programme, Ceausescu was forced to reschedule Western debts.

He began a breakneck programme to repay the \$11 billion debt, cutting investment and creating desperate food and energy shortages. He was forced to turn increasingly to Moscow for help, particularly for crude oil.

The security police ensured any dissent was quickly stifled.

A peasant's son, born in Scornicesti village outside Bucharest on Jan 26, 1918, Ceausescu joined the illegal Communist Party at 14 after elementary school.

It is not possible to say that the EEC commission has fully responded to Turkey's aspirations and also that its opinion does not contain some missing points and analytical mistakes.

— Turkey's deputy Prime Minister Ali Bozer said about EEC membership.

"I do not at all believe this is going to have a significant impact on those who have been planning for quite a long time to leave Vietnam for Hong Kong or other destinations," — said Robert van Loewen, the UN official.

"In the short term the forcible repatriation should stop. But that will only be done if other rich countries join Britain in seeking a solution to the predicament that comes from Hong Kong's geographical and political position," — Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Robert Runcie said.

"It is with deep regret that we note Australia has failed to uphold internationally accepted procedures, and allowed Wu'er and his like into Australia. Wu'er and his like are criminals intent on toppling the legitimate government of China." — A Chinese embassy official in Canberra said.

"Those demanding a special German route to unification outside the framework of German unity are playing consciously or unconsciously, with fire. Greater Germany would be a victory for the right." — East German Communist Party leader Gregor Gysi said.

"But we need time to get this far. I had to 'bang my head,' we all had to. Of all us — or at least almost all of us — covered a long road to arrive at the solutions which deprive neither side of its identity and at the same time create opportunities for joint action (and) overcoming a historical impasse." Polish President Jaruzelski said in an interview.

"The congress should not avoid making an evaluation. It must express its firm position: either to support the government's proposals, or course considering the remarks made here, or some other formulation." — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said.

"It is not my habit to protect myself by hiding behind others, particularly if they are dead ... on no account do I want to make an impression that I meant well, but there were forces, primarily from outside, who forced me to yield."

MIDEAST



Young Palestinian boys in Ramallah cover their faces with their shirts and make 'V' sign, while another youth hurls a stone and a tire burns in the background. (Reuter wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Deep concern

CAIRO, Dec 19. (Kuna): Israel has relayed to the United States "deep concern" over recent rapprochement between Egypt and each of Syria and Libya and expressed fear that improvement of Cairo's links with Damascus and Tripoli might lead to further deterioration in Israeli-Egyptian relations in the future, press reports said.

6 killed in clash

ERUH, Turkey, Dec 19. (AP): Six Kurdish guerrillas were killed in a shootout with the security forces in this southeastern township, the regional governor's office announced yesterday.

Turkey denies

NICOSIA, Dec 19. (Reuter): A Kurdish guerrilla group said today that Turkey had agreed to extradite 138 anti-Iraqi Kurds to Baghdad, but a Turkish official denied the charge.

Tanker aground

SUEZ, Dec 19. (AP): A loaded oil tanker bound for Turkey from Iran ran aground in the Suez canal today, paralyzing traffic, canal officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Liberian-registered Lauberhorn was stranded in the waterway, a few miles (kilometres) north of Suez.

Troop cuts

ANKARA, Dec 19. (Reuter): NATO-member Turkey said today it had downgraded two army divisions and would make further troop cuts to streamline and modernize its armed forces.

Defection

PESHAWAR, Dec 19. (Reuter): A former minister of the Soviet-backed Afghan government, Pachagul Wafadar, said today he had defected to Pakistan-based rebels with whom he had secret contacts for 10 years.

Blast probe

CAIRO, Dec 19. (Reuter): Egypt has banned all media from reporting its investigations into an attempt to kill Interior Minister Zaki Badr, officials said today.

Badr, 53, the strongman man of President Hosni Mubarak's government, escaped unhurt when a pick-up truck carrying explosives blew up 30 metres (yards) from his car in Cairo on Saturday.

14 go on trial

ADDIS ABABA, Dec 19. (Reuter): Fourteen high-ranking military officers implicated in a coup attempt against Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in May appeared before a military court yesterday.

Visit postponed

RABAT, Dec 19. (Reuter): King Hassan of Morocco, who was due in Paris today to confer with French President Francois Mitterrand, has postponed his visit until Friday, the Information ministry said.

It said the king would meet Mitterrand on Friday afternoon when they are both due to attend the closing session of a two-day European-Arab ministerial conference in the French capital.

Ben Ali ends visit

BAGHDAD, Dec 19. (AP): Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left yesterday, ending a three-day visit to Iraq and talks with President Saddam Hussein on the Iran-Iraq conflict and Arab developments, state-run Baghdad radio reported.

Jordan lifts ML

Badran woos Parliament

AMMAN, Dec 19. (Reuter): Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, wooing the newly-elected Parliament, lifted martial law today after 22 years and promised to fight corruption.

Badran, who took office two weeks ago, told the 80-seat chamber that martial law imposed during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war had been "frozen" and would soon be formally scrapped.

Stealing the thunder of Islamist and leftist members of the House, he promised sweeping measures to curb official graft, saying top public servants would have to declare their wealth.

The government will cooperate with your council to uncover the various facades of financial corruption and will not tolerate corruption or lax

Libya will attend Euro-Arab talks

TUNIS, Dec 19. (Reuter): Libya has decided to attend this week's meeting of Arab and European Economic Community foreign ministers in Paris, which it earlier denounced as a plot to drive a wedge between Libya and Syria and the rest of the Arab world.

Libya's Foreign Liaison Bureau (Foreign Ministry), in a statement released by the official news agency Jana yesterday said a Libyan delegation would go "in response to a call from brothers and not in response to a call from France."

Experts say there is a serious health risk from the sulphurous smog, some seven times above internationally-accepted levels in Ankara where schools have been closed for two days.

Road traffic in Ankara, the central city of Konya and Kars and Erzurum in the east were brought to a virtual standstill. Many domestic air flights have been cancelled.

Government officials in Ankara, a city of three million people in a windless bowl surrounded by barren mountains, blame the pollution mainly on the use of low grade coal.

"This letter was not private nor bilateral but concerns the Islamic world as a whole...this is what the Muslims decided, this is their will and we are not in a position to refuse this will. The oppression to which thousands of Muslim girls are subjected in France comes within this context," it said.

"We were hoping that the French President would look into the status of Muslim women in France," it added.

Mitterrand considered the letter an interference in the domestic row over Muslim girls who insist on wearing Islamic headscarves to school.

The French President could send Khaddafi a reply and publish it in the press, just as Libya had published Khaddafi's letter in the Libyan press, the Libyan statement suggested.

Turkish cities hit by smog

ANKARA, Dec 19. (Reuter): Dense acrid smog enveloped Ankara and other Turkish cities today, causing road and air traffic chaos, officials said.

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Moroccan authorities last month refused to allow

Amnesty ready to make fact-finding visit to Rabat

PARIS, Dec 19. (UPI): Amnesty International pointed scorn yesterday on claims by Moroccan King Hassan II that the human rights organisation had refused invitations by Rabat to visit Morocco and investigate allegations of torture in prisons of the north African nation.

A spokeswoman for the French branch of Amnesty said it sent a team to Morocco in January 1988 that met with the Moroccan justice and interior ministers and raised information "proving torture and mistreatment inflicted on prisoners." In July 1988 Amnesty gave the Moroccan government a dossier on the human rights abuses, she said.

Moroccan authorities last month refused to allow

Amnesty to send observers to a trial of Idriss Kaitouni, editor of the newspaper L'Opinion, the Amnesty statement said.

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Amnesty said that since 1984 "at least four political prisoners have died following hunger strikes," in Morocco.

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Indian Video Roundup

Sippy falls prey to gimmicks

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

DIRECTOR Ramesh Sippy's attempt to expose Bhashatagar starts off with conviction, even with some sincerity. But as the film progresses, and at a time when we believe some home truths would be told, Sippy falls prey to gimmicks.

Sippy's compromise for commercial success disappoints us, but this happens in the second half. In the beginning, we are seduced by Sippy's apparent honest expose of a political system that seems to be going downhill.

Protagonist Bhawani is a bold woman who takes up feminist causes, protects the downtrodden and talks of exposing the corrupt and powerful. One can't question Bhawani's intentions or her fervour for all causes righteous. Though she has an honest approach, she like the others is caught in a vicious circle — a web woven by the scheming, conniving power broker, Purshottam (Anupam Kher).

The dubious power broker has many a disguise, and Bhawani, unwittingly falls

for his charms, supporting his electoral campaign. Ironically, she brings the devil to power. And for the rest of the film, she plots his downfall.

Bhashatagar's strength lay in showing how the system could overpower the hapless victim. Sippy was moving toward this goal — he almost manages to have Bhawani arrested. But, he can't resist the temptation to make a hero out of Bhawani.

She is in the dock — on trial; and in the tradition of Hindi movies, she emerges victorious. Sippy fails; he couldn't avoid gimmicks and indulges in contrived situations that spoil the overall impact of the movie.

From a mythological point of view, Sippy follows the epic to destroy Ravan, the epitome of evil in the world. However, from a realistic viewpoint, he just had an eye on the box office as he compromised the theme for commercial success.

Rekha who appears in a movie after a long absence, has played Bhawani with just the right amount of conviction; Mithun Chakraborty as Inspector Ashutosh Das gives a fine performance.

Anupam Kher is hateful in the role of Purshottam. Rajnikant also stars.

Swayam

Maheesh Bhatt's latest movie Swayam brings out the best in one of the most sensitive actresses of our time. Waheeda Rehman's role of a widowed middle-aged woman trying to come to terms with life has been finely etched and superbly enacted.

Bhatt's grasp of human frailties results in a rather touching film. The woman is at once frail and strong; vulnerable and invincible; she is a bundle of contradictions. And from this emerges a woman of substance with a mind of her own. A person who wants to be her own master.

Swayam's only flaw is that Bhatt fails to accelerate the pace of the film, which seems to drag as the director introduces the woman's daughters, too involved in their own affairs to stop and think about their mother's plight.

Soni Razdan as one of the daughters gets on your nerves as the inconsiderate, spoilt brat who wants to have her own

way. Her character contrasts sharply with Waheeda's docile mother, who quietly but firmly exerts her independence.

Khoj

Thrillers have always been in short supply. And when a movie like Khoj comes along, one must grab it. There is no exacting theme. Khoj, as the title suggests, is the search for a missing woman, a wealthy industrialist's wife. She vanishes without trace in Nepal. Where has she gone? Is she already missing? The mystery is compounded after the "missing person" is found by a priest, a shady character suspected of gross wrongdoing.

The husband refuses to accept the other woman as his wife; evidence proves she is his wife. Is he lying? Or is she lying? The truth? Well, you'll find out after watching the well-knit taut drama.

Khoj is one of the finest thrillers from the Ramayya banner. It stars Rishi Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah, Danny, Suresh Shah and Kimi Katkar.

The above films are by courtesy of Athar Video, Main St., Farwanya, Tel: 471-2900; and Falcon Video, Abbasia.



Arts Circle celebrates first anniversary

ARTS CIRCLE, one of the most prominent volleyball teams among the Indian volleyball community in Kuwait, has celebrated its first anniversary on Thursday the 14th December 1989 evening at the Regal Restaurant under the Chairmanship of its President Kuruvilla George. A large number of supporters, friends, and well-wishers in addition to the members and their families attended the function. The meeting convened with silent prayer and Convenor C.O. Cherian welcomed the guests and audience.

In the presidential speech, Kuruvilla George explained the activities and growth of Arts Circle during the past one year and congratulated the new office bearers. Secretary Abraham John revealed the fact that Arts Circle had actively participated in 7 tournaments where Arts Circle had to play against professional players of Kerala State Team and won

trophies for the Best Player, for the Best Local Team and for the winners of looser's final. John congratulated Nebu Koshy (when he was with Arts Circle), Francis D'Souza, Giko Koshy and Jagat Perera for obtaining the 'Best Player' trophies through Arts Circle and introduced the new office bearers to the audience, Aravindakshan Pappu (President), Dinakar (Vice-President), P.K. Alexander (Secretary), Jacob Philip (Joint Secretary), T.P. Pothen (Trustee), C.O. Cherian (Convenor), John Abraham (Team Coach), Kuruvilla George (Team Manager) and Pinto (Team Captain).

The members have decided to continue their efforts for more success and to keep up their present image brighter.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by John Abraham.

Kuwait City	Al Ghanim Pharmacy	Souk Al Ahmed
Salmiyah and Rumeithiya	Fahd Al Salem St.	Khatib
Talal Pharmacy	Baghdad St.	Al Tawfeek Pharmacy
Al Hilal St.	Hawalli and Nugeira	The main street
Fahheel and Ahmedi	Al Khayam Pharmacy	Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy		Al Souk Al Jadid

Christmastide 1989

Holy Masses as on Fridays	31st DECEMBER: New Year's Eve
HOLY MASSES:	
7.00 am English	
4.00 pm Konkani	
6.00 pm English	
10.00 pm Holy Hour (English)	
11.00 pm Pontifical High Mass	
1st JANUARY 1990: New Year's Day	
HOLY MASSES:	
7.00 am English	
8.00 am English	
9.00 am English	
10.00 am English	
11.00 am English	
11.30 am French Mass (in big hall)	
12.00 noon English	
3.00 pm Sinhalese	
4.00 pm Konkani	
5.00 pm English	
6.00 pm English	
7.00 pm Malayalam (in big hall)	
5th JANUARY: Solemnity of the Epiphany	
Holy Masses as on Fridays.	
For more info. contact 2434637.	

ing available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts — coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details — Recreation Manager, 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22232) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.13 am
Zohr	11.45
Asr	2.35 pm
Maghreb	4.54
Isha	6.16

SPORTS

Discover the world down under

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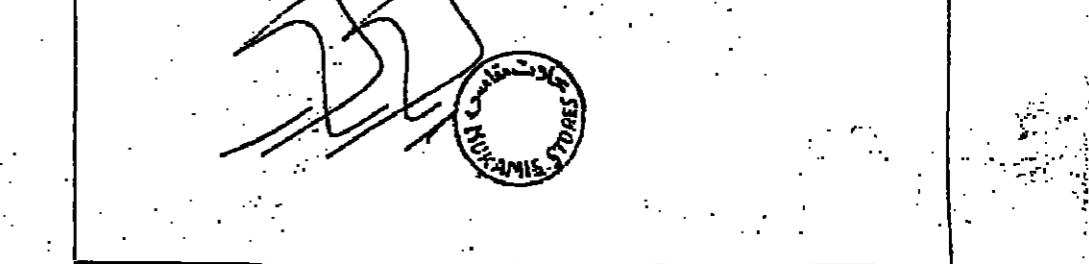
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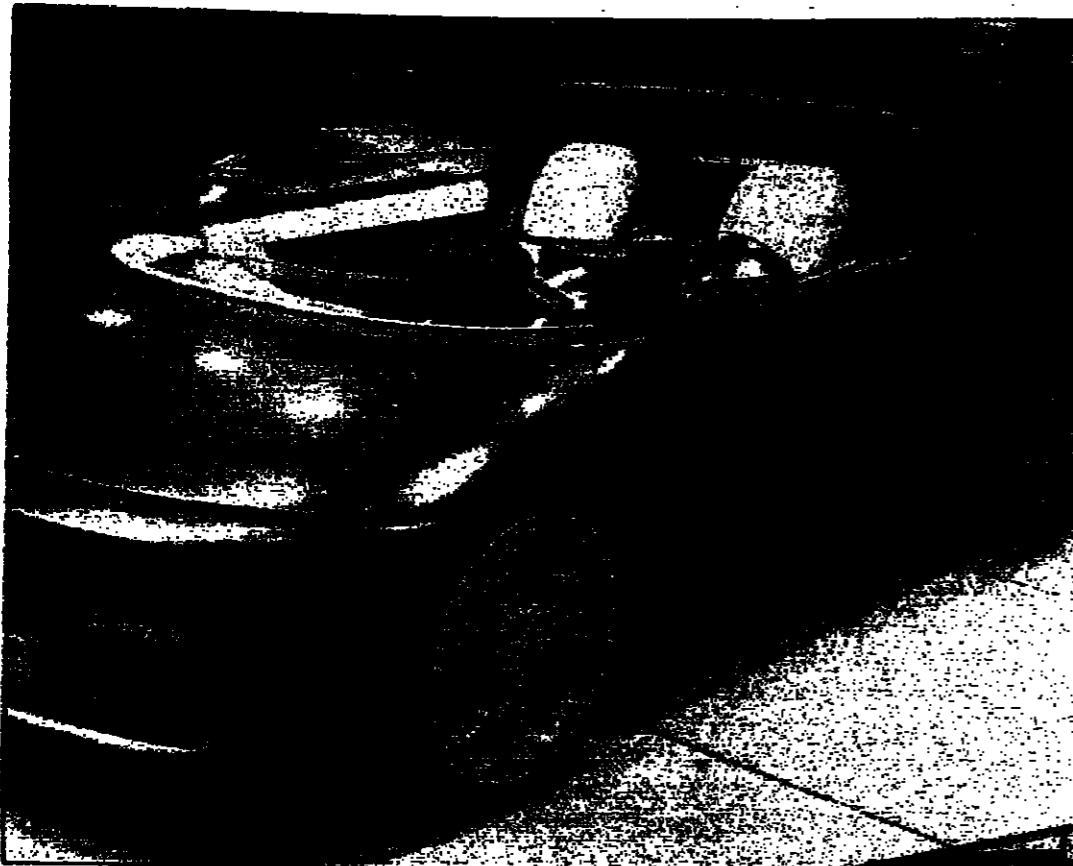


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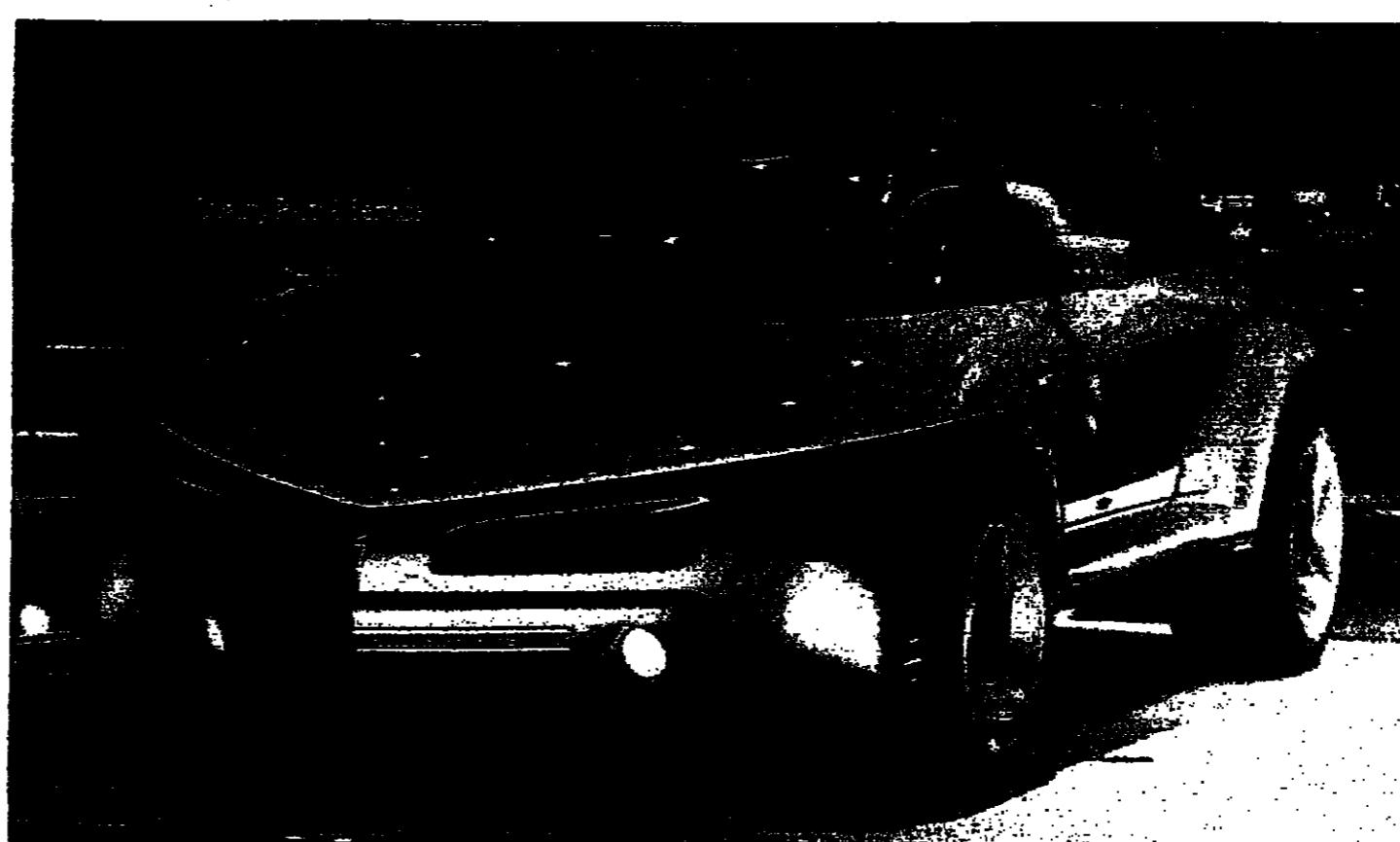
Jy. 1989

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT



Plymouth Speedster



Pontiac Stinger

US automakers are attempting to pierce the inky blackness of the future as never before. They are training bold beams of light on tomorrow — beams of light in the guise of concept cars.

To an automaker, a concept car is a way of putting its feet up on the desk, leaning back, and dreaming. A few concept cars are built simply to attract crowds to a company's auto-show display, but most serve a higher purpose. The best concept cars ask, "What if?" They challenge the imaginations of engineers and designers. They put a company's thoughts about the future in order by turning visionary ideas into three-dimensional forms.

Most dream cars that make it as far as an auto-show turntable are attempts to test the public's reaction to a particular styling detail, a fresh design theme, or a whole new automotive viewpoint. The concept cars themselves are rarely put into the model lineup, but they can pave the way for similar production vehicles three-to-five years down the line. Careful inspection of a dream machine can often tell you what a car company is thinking.

Thinking

A lot of future thinking is now going on in the halls of American car companies.

The key to the Dodge Viper from Chrysler Motors, is that it is simple and basic, just like the Cobra. That means a peel-off top and side curtains instead of roll-up windows. The curvaceous body will be fiberglass. Power will come from a version of a new 8.0-litre V-10 engine that Chrysler is developing for trucks; the engine should easily belt out well over 300 hp. And that about does it.

Imagine a cross between a Suzuki Samurai and a Pontiac Firebird Trans Am. Los Angeles' urban-jeep meets Motown missile. Stranger from a strange land — only it works. Say hello to the Pontiac Stinger.

The Stinger starts with the emerging fun-utility car-truck idea and takes it all the way to its mid-1990s conclusions — adding style, flash, innovation, and even more utility. It's a drivable, four-seat, all-wheel rig built to test public reaction to the idea.

The Stinger is powered by a sixteen-valve 3.0-litre four-cylinder sitting crossways under the pointy snout. Its independent suspension is height-adjustable for extra off-road clearance. The interior is packed with everything from a camping stove to a picnic table, all of it stowed neatly into specially formed

Cars that challenge the imagination....

nooks and crannies. The lower glass can be popped out of the driver's door and a combination cooler-travel case popped in. There's much more, none of which has been sorted for production — but that's not the point here.

Underneath the XT-2 pace car is the sleek Kevlar-and-carbon-fiber skin. It's built on a Prototube-frame chassis, similar to those under IMSA GTO-class Corvettes, and it's powered by a special 360-hp V-6 based on Chevy's 4.5-litre racing block. Modified Corvette suspension pieces do the road hugging, and Corvette ZR1 brakes burn off the speed.

Some scepticism is in order because of the radical nature of

BMW and Mercedes-Benz — as evidenced by the Solitaire's rear-view layout and the "V-12" badges on its flanks. The engine has a 430 hp, 48-valve, 6.6-litre V-12 developed in conjunction with Lotus. That engine may indeed be under development, but last year the GM brass denied any intention of building a V-12. The Solitaire is huge — 215 inches of production, the body is made of steel, not fiberglass.

Other aspects of the Solitaire seem a bit far-fetched for production. To improve aerodynamics, the front tyres are shrouded by fender skirts that flip out when the wheels are turned full-lock; they'll be hard to keep clean in slushy weather. Huge doors billed as "possibly the longest in

windshield and a simple top. Called the California Camaro, this dream machine made its first public appearance at the Los Angeles Auto Show in early January. The California Camaro is powered by a dual-overhead-cam V-6. And as an indication of this project's high aspirations and future possibilities for production, the body is made of steel, not fiberglass.

Significantly the California Camaro uses a rear-drive layout. The California Camaro's 104-inch wheelbase is three inches longer than the current Camaro's, and its overall length of 186.4 inches is a mere 5.6 inches shorter. The new car is marginally wider than the current Camaro.

The show Camaro has several concept-car features. Among them are tilt-up, Countach-style doors. There is a tubular door-pull that runs the full width of the door and houses controls for the lights, power windows, etc. This feature gives the Camaro a wonderfully spacey, alien look.

The Trofeo Concept car is a quiet admission by Oldsmobile is a trial balloon.

The exterior modifications — front and rear end caps and body-side chadding — are bolt-on fiberglass pieces. The Trofeo doesn't require altering of the basic architecture or substructure.

The interior, a complete revision in the form of new seats, a new instrument panel, and new consoles front and rear. Although the new pieces simply bolt in, the change in personality and the improvement in ergonomics is dramatic: this interior looks and feels like a serious driver's cockpit.

To give the Trofeo's new image some substance, Oldsmobile installed a 300-hp turbocharged Quad 4 and redesigned the entire box along new-tech lines.

The Ford Splash seems so rad because it was designed by four kids during their summer vacation. They were all students enrolled in Detroit's Centre for Creative Studies.

The Splash is built on a Festiva chassis that's been converted to four-wheel drive. It uses a dual height suspension and Goodyear experimental tyres with treads that look like the bottoms of your Nikes. The four-seat interior is covered in wet-suit

fabric, and the controls and switches are extralarge so they're easy to use when you're bounding over dunes. The rear seat folds in a number of ways and converts to a chaise lounge for serious hanging out.

The Splash is one of four sport-utility proposals now circulating Ford's market-research clinics.

The Aerotech II is not drivable, but its nose is sized to accept a supercharged Quad 4 engine, which would power the front wheels.

The Millennium hardware falls into four categories: improved vehicle-control sys-

tems, better visibility, new emergency warning systems, and better crash protection. A number of technologies installed on the Millennium are already in production — ABS, traction control, and air bags — but some ground-breaking research is under way. Chrysler safety engineers will be looking into seat designs that keep you from slipping under the belts in a crash, voice-activated controls, infrared night-vision enhancement, collision warning radar, blind-spot radar, a drunk-driver ignition-disabling mechanism, automatic transmissions with

bad-weather shift programmes, and more.

Ford's Mercury line turned fifty this year, so management decided the Detroit Auto Show was the place to begin the golden-anniversary celebration.

The unassuming Concept 50 is the rarest of birds. It's what the product planners call "a market-research property." It was never intended to be seen publicly. Indeed, Ford's Ghia design studio built it specifically for top-secret consumer clinics, to test the design for near-term production.

This fiberglass mockup (it has no interior) was painted in a nondescript silver hue. On one side, it was styled to look like a two-door sedan; on the other it was four-door. (The four-door side was converted back into a two-door for the auto show.) It did so well in marketing clinics that it's become one of three finalists in the competition to succeed the current Topaz.

Never has a show car been more aptly named. Park Avenue Essence has the essential elements of the big Buicks of the early nineties.

The Essence is a big car, 210 inches long, so it might loose a half-foot or so in its transition to a production vehicle. Its intent will remain the same, though: modern but conservative architecture over familiar but well-developed mechanicals. The body, for instance, manages a Cd of 0.30 while retaining a full measure of character. The show car rides on a conventional Park Avenue chassis and packs a 185-hp version of the ubiquitous GM 3800 V-6.

The Essence's interior is an amalgam of simple flowing shapes, with three-across seating and a minimum of show-car gadgetry. The 113.8-inch wheelbase provides enough room for a family of Karen Abdul-Jabars.

The overall direction strikes as very Jaguar-like. The Essence looks like it could be a roomy, comfortable car that adds more style and newfound athletic ability to the Buick formula.

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THERE are concept cars, and then there are concept cars. The problem is how to tell them apart. "Concept cars" mean the kind of vehicles that are built in

batches of one and are years away from production. But manufacturers have been known to play fast and loose with the concept-car label, occasionally

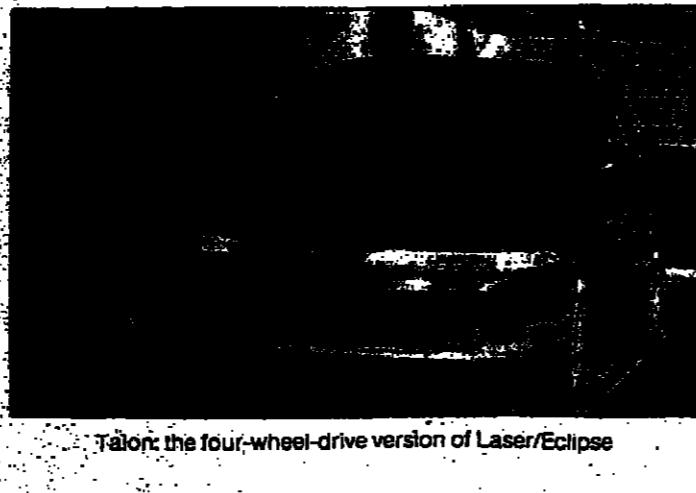
showing upcoming production models without admitting that those cars are what they are.

At this year's Detroit and Los

Angeles auto shows, the US carmakers revealed at least ten cars that are anything but dreams. As they say on TV, they'll be coming soon to a dealer near you.



Isuzu-built Storm sports coupe



Talon, the four-wheel-drive version of Laser/Eclipse

Truckin': good for good times both on and off the highway

TRUCKS make a big contribution to the overall success now being enjoyed by the auto industry. In 1988, dealers sold 15,789,071 vehicles. Of these, just under five million units were trucks. To be precise, 4,956,818 new trucks rolled out of US showrooms last year — which means that nearly one of every three vehicles sold is a truck.

The pickup truck, accounts for a huge portion of truck sales. An ever-increasing number of pickups, particularly the smaller members of the bed-in-the-back gang, are bought just because they're fun. Versatile fun. The availability of four-wheel drive makes a pickup comfortable in winter and agile anywhere when the weather's right for running. In the following pages a compendium of four-wheel-drive pickups good for good times both on and off the highway.

Toyota Pickup

Although Toyota has been in the four-wheel-drive truck business for a time, it never offered a shift-on-the-fly engagement system. No more, as 4WDemand finally brings Toyota into the fold. The system is standard on SR5 models equipped with the

3.0-litre V-6 and optional on four-cylinder Toyota pickups.

For 1989, Toyota completely redesigned its pickups with aerodynamical bodywork and reworked, more ergonomically hospitable interiors that emphasise passenger comfort and safety.

Toyota four-wheelers come in Deluxe, SR5, or SR5 V6, with standard or extended cabs, and in standard- or long-bed form, although the extended-cab versions come only with standard beds.

Toyota 4Runner

Imagine the short-wheel-base Toyota pickup with a top bolted on, and you get the 4Runner. Like Toyota's pickups, the 4Runner is powered by either a 2.4-litre four-cylinder or a 150-horsepower, 3.0-litre V-6. Two transmissions, a five-speed manual, and an electronic four-speed automatic, take care of the shifting chores.

Four models — 4Runner Deluxe (available in two- and five-passenger configurations), 4 Runner SR5, and 4Runner SR5 V6 — all use the independent front suspension and rigid-axle-and-leaf-spring rear suspension



of the SR5 pickups. The 4WDemand shift-on-the-fly four-wheel-drive system is standard on SR5 and SR5 V6 4Runners, while the other models

make do with manually locking hubs.

Suzuki Sidekick

With the plethora of pseudo four-by-fours out there, Suzuki makes things simple. This spunky machine makes no pretensions.

The Samurai gives you one choice of engine and transmission — a 64-horsepower 1.3-litre four-cylinder hooked to a five-speed manual transmission. Front and rear leaf springs keep the suspension simple, a hardtop or a convertible are the only body styles, and the options list offers essentials like air conditioning and little else.

Since the Samurai weighs in at just over a ton in convertible form, it moves along quite well. Its 79.9-inch wheelbase makes tight manoeuvres breeze, and the Samurai boasts decent ground clearance, so an off-road slouch it's not.

Range Rover

The Range Rover has almost overnight created a market — one for high-class, well-appointed four-wheel-drive utility vehicles that seldom go off-road.

Not that the Range Rover isn't capable; it is. For 1989, the Rover's Buick-designed, all-aluminium V-8 has been increased to 3.9 litres and 178 horsepower. It has permanent four-wheel drive — with a viscous-coupled centre differential — and four-wheel disc brakes. And it can tow up to an incredible 7700 pounds in low gear.

But the real Range Rover story is luxury. Inside, the Range Rover is more like a Cadillac than an off-roader; power everything is standard, and passenger-and-cargo space is generous. The idea of all that capability concealed by posh luxury is appealing.

Nissan Pathfinder

Nissan's California-based styling group created the Pathfinder, and the great-looking sheetmetal is only part of the story.

Just one engine is fitted in the Pathfinder. Nissan's 3.0-litre V-6 that produces 145 horsepower. A five-speed manual transmission is standard, while a four-speed automatic with a lock-up torque

converter is optional.

The Pathfinder is well appointed inside, yet there are options galore, from a four-wheel-drive limited-slip differential to adjustable shock absorbers. Any way it's outfitted, the Pathfinder is comfortable and quiet — partly because of its long wheelbase — which, combined with split folding rear seats, makes the Pathfinder a fairly efficient cargo hauler as well.

Mitsubishi Montero

The Montero, full of nifty touches and nice performance, proves Mitsubishi puts plenty of thought into its products. Getting into rear seats can be a hassle, so a handsome four-door version was added this year. A new 3.0-litre V-6 has also been added, and it is standard with all four-doors and optional on the two-door versions. And you get your choice of transmissions with the bigger engine — a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic, although the top-of-the-line four-door comes with the automatic only. Four-wheel drive can be engaged on the go.

The Montero displays a comfortable highway ride, pleasing for four passengers, and comes nicely appointed without the need for a heavy hand on the options sheet.

Jeep Cherokee

For completeness, you can't beat the Cherokee line. All Cherokees seat five, and there is a choice of five different models — in both two- and four-door styles.

The standard Cherokee engine is Jeep's throttle body injected 2.5 litre four-cylinder. The recently introduced, 4.0 litre six-cylinder mammoth with 177 horsepower is optional — and more than enough to cope with off-roading or heavy towing. Either engine can be matched to a five-speed manual or a four-speed automatic transmission, and shifting automatic transmission, and shifting to four-wheel drive can be done on the move.

The Cherokee can be had with two or four doors, and with the rear seat folded down it offers a whopping 71.8 cubic feet of cargo area.

Jeep Wagoneer

The Wagoneer has one mission in life: to be a completely

Suzuki Sidekick

safe and competent four-wheel-drive luxury wagon. It comes standard with a powerful 4.0 litre six-cylinder engine. A comprehensive list of options allows you to tailor the Wagoneer to amazingly elegant levels. And this grandest of jeeps can actually seat five passengers in comfort and haul their luggage as well.

Ford Bronco II

Big off-roaders are going the way of the dinosaurs, and the unflagging popularity of the Bronco II is proof. Underneath, the 2.5 litre engine is standard equipment for the Pioneer and Sportruck, while the sport-oriented Eliminator gets a 4.0 litre inline six-cylinder that produces a robust 177 horsepower. A truck-use-oriented four-speed automatic transmission is available on all Comanches.

Chevrolet S-10 Blazer

Take all the basic mechanicals of the S-10 trucks, add the off-

Ford Ranger
The Ranger has been around since 1982, partly because there's always been a Ranger for every truck buyer's taste: the Ranger line boasts five distinct trim levels.

The Ranger's already good looks have been enhanced with an aerodynamic redesign of the front sheetmetal. From there back, it's basic Ranger — three different wheelbases, standard cab and extended-cab body styles, and two bed lengths, 6 and 7 feet.

Underneath, the tried-and-true 2.3 litre four-cylinder that comes standard in the Ranger is replaced by a 2.3 litre four with a twin-plug design, yielding a bit more horse-power. And as always, a comprehensive options list which includes an off-road

V-6.

Chevrolet S-10 Blazer

Take all the basic mechanicals of the S-10 trucks, add the off-



road heart of the big Blazer, and you have the S-10 Blazer. All four-wheel-drive S-10 Blazers come with Insta-Trac, eliminating the hub-locking chore. Three trim levels and numerous individual options — from an off-road suspension package to premium sound systems — allow you to equip a Blazer for the nastiest conditions without sacrificing comfort.

A fuel-injected 2.8 litre and five-speed transmission are standard, with a 2.5 litre four, Chevy's Vortec V-6, and an automatic transmission available as options. Also new for this year — and standard on all Blazers — are rear anti-lock brakes and three-point rear-passenger belts.

Chevrolet S-10

The S-10 series is entering its seventh year of production little changed from the day it was introduced, a tribute to its inherent goodness. Since 1982, standards such as independent front suspension and dual-walled bed construction have made the S-10 a mini-truck favourite.

And last year, Chevrolet raised the S-10's performance above mini-truck levels with the addition of the 160-horsepower 43.3 litre Vortec V-6, the largest power plant offered in the compact class.

Insta-Trac four-wheel drive allows engagement-on-the-go, and rear anti-lock brakes are now standard.

Dodge Dakota

If a mini-truck is too small and a full-size is too big, the mid-size Dakota is just right. The Dakota is offered on two wheelbases — the smaller carries a six-and-a-half-foot bed, the larger a long four-and-a-half foot.

The Mighty Max is one four-wheeler full of features; the Mighty Max line is even more owner-friendly this year with the inclusion of a one-touch locking system and colour-coded underbody markings to make routine maintenance more handy.

The Mighty Max line includes

a new model this year — the Macro-cab, an extended cab version of the basic Max that offers an unusual amount of extra cargo or people area in the cab. Four other Mighty Max body styles are available, as are two different bed lengths, three trim levels, and several off-road and comfort options.

The four-wheel-drive Max uses a 2.6 litre four-cylinder engine and a five-speed manual transmission as the only driveline choice.

Mitsubishi Pickup

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How to treat

a turbo car

TURBOCHARGED cars, particularly the first ones out on the market, have provided the most graphic and costly lessons in good lubrication. Complete turbo failures due to seized bearings — the turbo spins up to 150,000 rpm — have been seen at 20,000 miles. The repair bill could approach three figures.

So what goes wrong? The very worst way to treat a turbo car is to blast along the motorway, then stop the car quickly and turn the engine off. The heat soak is enormous. The heat in the thick turbo casing, which may have been close to red hot when the engine is on full boost, is suddenly no longer being dissipated by the flow of engine oil around the bearings. The result is that the temperature of the stationary oil trapped around the bearings soars and the oil is incinerated, leaving a layer of gum and carbon on the bearings. This builds up and eventually prevents enough oil getting to the bearings, which seize with catastrophic consequences.

An added problem can be corrosion of the lead bronze bearings, once again shortening the life of the turbo. Although the car makers have reacted by adopting water-cooled turbos, it is no coincidence that makers of many

turbo cars like the new Lancia Y10 Turbo, recommend the use exclusively of synthetic or semi-synthetic oils. It is these advanced lubricants that appear in the cans of approved "Turbo" engine oil sold by some of the car makers themselves. An additional advantage is that the better cold temperature flow characteristics of these oils ensures fresh lubricant gets to the critical bearings fast when starting from cold.

The problem of turbocharger reliability is taken very seriously by both the car and oil manufacturers, many of whom have developed their own test methods. For example Nissan runs its turbo engines under load for 30 minutes at a simulated speed of 80 mph. The next 30 minutes is equivalent to driving up a 5 per cent gradient at 80 mph and this is followed by a 15-minute soak period. After 200 cycles, the turbo bearings are examined and rated for approval.

Most, if not all, turbo cars have oil change intervals half those of their naturally aspirated sister models. A Porsche Turbo would require an oil change every 6000 miles, a Lancia Y10 Turbo every 3000 miles. And you can't risk using anything but the best oil.

THE TIPPO ON THE ROAD Tipoo Digit



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Car of the Year

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Sports cars – the thrill of breaking speed barriers

THE 320i is one of those very rare cars — the Jaguar XJS V12 is another — which are actually soothed. The BMW's 125 bhp 2-litre Bosch LE-Jetronic fuel-injected engine is a real smoothie, unruled by demands for the

its driver. Not that it is slow by any means. The rep's rocket motor, the excellent GM 1800 cc injected ohc engine lies beneath the bonnet and is as smooth as ever, right round to the 6500 rpm red line if you want. It still has no

fibre resin. The interior is purposeful, but the wood fascia gives it a homely air.

The Rover Vitesse engine is fired up courtesy of an Austin Rover key, which is at least logical. It wakes the still drowsy

as different engines — first the inevitable 1750, which Motor tested in 1969, and just as predictably a 2000 later on. Although there was a short-lived open version of the related Bertone coupe, the Touring-built GTC Spider has for the past 20 years been Alfa's mainstay rag-top.

Old is the word. It's the chassis that betrays the Spider's age most vividly. Steering is stodgy and heavy at low speeds, and imprecise when tanking on. A deft touch is needed to avert seesaw steering inputs to hold line when cornering hard. The tendency is to flick one way to counter-tuck in as the body tilts, then the other to get back on course. It is not alarming, this roll-steer behaviour, but it does deprive the car of precision and accuracy. Cornering powers are actually quite high, but there's no great incentive to exploit them, except on smooth, open bend.

The QV's body kit, notably the plastic sill and front and rear aprons (all cars have the soft-touch ducktail spoiler on the boot lid), is not everyone's idea of aesthetic enhancement. As bolt on muscle, as whimsical fashion pads, they serve their purpose, though, adding a little machismo to Pininfarina's elegantly sweeping lines, back in vogue now that aerodynamics call the tune. Never mind the Cd factor. When it comes to attracting admiring looks, the Spider has few peers. With or without its plastic skirts, stunningly good looks are in part the secret of the Spider's enduring success.

Caterham

The Caterham doesn't hate suburbia, yet the clutch and stubby gearlever feel heavy, and the side vision is at junctions so poor tall drivers should be banned from putting the roof up on Surrey's tiny sportscar.

On the fast, open but rippled B-roads it is at last time to come to grips with the Caterham's new de Dion rear suspension. Morris Ital live axle and A-frame location has given way to more sophisticated de Dion layout using a Sierra diff, though still using the same A-frame location, not Watts linkage.

The change is very significant. Most obvious is the greatly improved ride, which though firm soaks up small bumps well — only the worst drain holes and ruts can detect the Caterham lacking in wheel travel. Mid-corner bumps no longer see the car darting sideways, though the combination of a tiny steering wheel, 2.3 turns lock to lock and a hint of bump steer sees the individual Seven firmly on the sensitive side of agile when driven really quickly.

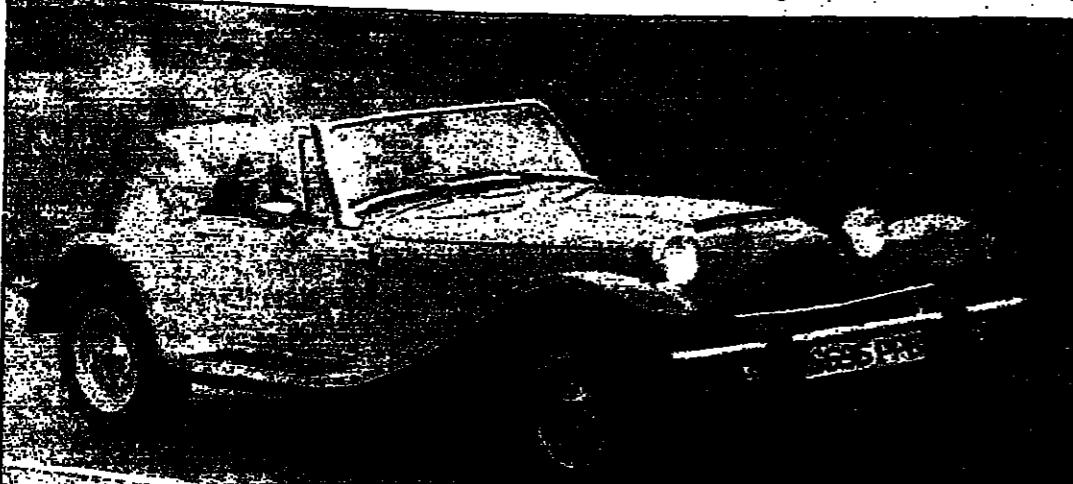
The chassis' new-found suppleness is highlighted by the way the tail sinks as you plant your accelerator foot on the bulkhead and watch the revs soar; it rolls a little more, too, yet the ride quality is such that the Caterham is easier to live with.

The men who build them

reckon the de Dion-axle car to be the faster on a dry circuit, but on the tricky wet roads that rise and twist their way.

A more individual car than the Caterham it is hard to imagine;

the redoubtable Porsche 911 is a less pure driving machine.



Panther Kallista

hardest work, aided by a veritable Swan Lake of a gearchange, gliding from ratio to ratio. The driver's sports seat seems to have adjustments to suit everyone.

The 3-Series Cabriolet is created by Baur at an additional cost and the result is impressive. Between windscreen and a hoop behind the front passengers is a glass-fibre lift-out section. Behind the hoop is a folding canvas section with plastic rear window. Rear glass sidewindows are fixed.

In a sense, the car is quieter still, open. There is an awareness of the zing of the exhaust and there is some wind noise but nothing to worry about A10 speeds. Surely sunlit driving with the roof down is one of the superb motoring pleasures.

The 320i has a zero to 60 mph time the right side of 10 seconds, which is quickish, and on roads that have dried rapidly it feels delightfully balanced. The power comes in above 3000 rpm and really gets weaving after 4000.

With the 320i's lid off there is little buffeting for front seat occupants and the car feels taut with no noticeable scuttle shake. There is wind roar around the superstructure at speed but it is within limits for an open car.

Overall, comfort is excellent, the seats firm but nicely shaped in the usual German manner.

The BMW responds crisply in tightening bends with no drama, the engine spinning up the revs as if friction did not exist.

Vauxhall Cavalier

Vauxhall's sales literature doesn't quite set it that way. More like images of rolling countryside, roof down to reveal handsome young executives and their girlfriends, one each naturally, this is a tourer after all, not a mere sports car.

As the A 15 gave way to the A11, the rain diminished and you had to admit that this was a very civilised, nay almost majestic form of transport. There's no reason why a saloon-to-convertible operation should be anything else, but memories of some converted Lotus Cortinas and HB Vivas that have passed through my hands in years gone by had left some unpleasant memories of leaking hoods, wind noise beyond belief, and scuttle shake that made you feel as if the bodyshell was about to fall apart. They were also less than easy on the eye. The Cavalier on the other hand is undeniably stylish. The original booted car's lines suit the conversion perfectly, and even with the hood up that cabriolet kiss of styling death-the upright rear window—has been avoided. The original glass item's rake is all but preserved.

The A11 doesn't exactly place great demands on the suspension: it's more like the closed Cavalier's familiar territory. Flat out on the motorway, this is a machine which brings out the most sublime qualities in

neighbourhood, just as the first rumble of thunder would.

Shower over, the Tasmin causes a stir going through Welshpool, its brutish looks and burbling exhaust a posing-match for any Italian exotic. But now in the heart of Powys the roads narrow and the bends tighten. This is not really supercar country, but the TVR is fun. The rumbling, exhaust echoes between stone walls like an unsilenced racer, and the temptation of full power assault on low gear corners is impossible to resist.

Rough roads uncover another surprise. The tin-roofed Cavalier suffers enough already from scuttle shake, so removal of a fair area of sheet metal from the box must make the situation worse but amazingly, not that much. It's noticeable over really bad surfaces, but the extra stiffening grafted into the footwells by Messrs Hammond and Predeco of Germany seems to have done the trick.

Panther Kallista

What little overtaking is needed, the Kallista takes in its stride, usually without a down-change. No need, it feels safe and secure in the wet, too. (It is not the noise or lack of civility that grates the nervous system. It's the discomfort of the awful seat. Your 2.8 Kallista deserves better than this.)

Kallista corners like a rail-secured skateboard. No roll, no lurch, no boring understeer. At least, not on the fast sweepers where the car feels terrific, it just changes direction. You can detect 'understeer' through the light but inert massisted steering on the slower bends, and really sharp ones call for lots of twirling, high geared it is not. But tanking on, you just sit back and aim, without any castor-induced wheel fight.

In an earlier text, the car's habit of dancing of course on bumpy secondaries was criticised. Too much chassis squirm and bump steer was suggested. Panther now appears to have made progress in the chassis department. Mind you, sitting above the live coil-sprung back axle does tend to amplify all vertical movement. You learn to treat slow-down humps with great respect: taken too fast, they'll either dislodge the grey stuff from your molars or the low-slung silencer from the exhaust. Ground clearance is still poor.

There are other shortcomings, besides Boot space is minimal, and the easy-fold hood forms an ugly backpack on the rump when furled. It also needs strong arms and fingers to secure to the screen rail with over-centre catches. Then there are the puny instruments, badly masked by the spokes of the high-up steering wheel. As for top-up ventilation, it's an open window or nothing.

Tasmin
With a Tasmin you travel light because you have to. And if you've any sense, wipe the sleep from your eyes before departing. A Ford key opens the door, but I'm greeted by the aroma of newly stitched leather - tainted only slightly by the smell of glass-

recesses the de Dion-axle car to be

the faster on a dry circuit, but on

the tricky wet roads that rise and

twist their way.

A more individual car than the

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the redoubtable Porsche 911 is a less pure driving machine.

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GET THE FEEL OF THE OUTDOORS IN THE NEW COLT SUPER TOP



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Not one but two sun roofs with an integrated air-deflector to smooth wind turbulence at high speeds for year round climate control. Comfort for you and your passengers, we think of everything. Many exciting colours to choose from. Experience the pleasure of driving in the new Super Top Colt.

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Trade In And Easy Instalments
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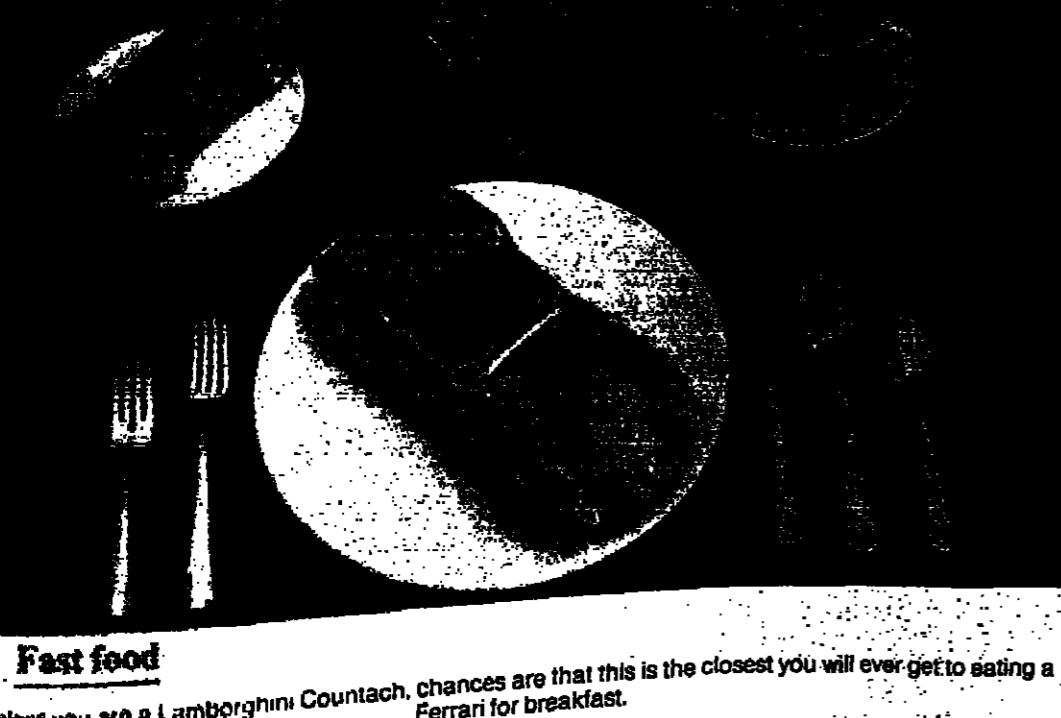
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MITSUBISHI MOTORS



AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES:
AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

• Here is concrete proof that cars really are getting better by leaps and bounds.

Audi 5000CS

Turbo Quattro

When will the world bow down to the Audi 5000CS Turbo Quattro and acknowledge that it is the most modern and sophisticated four-door sedan on the planet? Probably not as long as the prestige leaders — BMW, Jaguar, and Mercedes-Benz keep building cars the old-fashioned way.

Audi has a long history of marching proudly down its own technological path — first with front-wheel drive, then with unpopular engine designs, and recently with four-wheel drive and radically sleek coach-work. Unfortunately, Audi's top models have sold in modest numbers. The 5000CS Turbo Quattro carries every trick in the book — full-time four-wheel drive, a turbocharged and intercooled engine, anti-lock brakes — and still shaves our \$30,000 barrier by \$2000. And if that's too rich for your blood.

Chevrolet Corvette

It normally takes GM three years to get any new car right, and the three-year-old Corvette is deliciously, gloriously, rule-the-roads-at-150-mpg right.

As long as the driver keeps the front wheels aimed in the right direction, the Corvette takes care of everything else.

The engineers have been hard at work on their sports car during the last year. In addition to a host of much-needed basic improvements, the Corvette's portfolio boasts three major advances for 1986. Anti-lock brake hardware is now standard equipment. Aluminum cylinder heads will be phased into production to trim weight. And a new convertible body style will be offered during the last half of the model run. At this rate, Chevrolet may corner the right-stuff market by the end of the decade.

Ford Taurus/

Mercury Sable

Not only did Ford take the risk, it also spent the time and trouble to make its pair of Taurus and Sable breakthrough sedans roadworthy and fun to drive.

The Taurus and the Sable are just trickling down the assembly line. The plants will be up to speed, the wraps will be whisked off the slinky forms in Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealerships.

across America.

Honda Accord

Nine and a half years ago, Honda pinned a target on the wall in the form of the original Accord, and every other manufacturer hoping to compete in the compact class has since taken

contentedly, even at 100 mph. The bodyworks is a seamless blend of covered headlamps, hidden wipers, nearly flush glass, and concealed drip moldings. The door frames fold into the roof, and the hoodline is as low as possible, enhancing aerodynamics.

finishers, one should remember, eighteen months ago, the Honda Prelude took on some very heavy competition in C/D's best-handling-import epic and blew all but one of the contenders right off the map.

In the meantime, Honda has attacked the Prelude's one basic shortcoming — it doesn't have 500 horsepower — in an effort to move it one notch closer to sports coupe heaven. Late in the 1983 model year, the new 2.0Si model was launched, with electronic fuel injection, a seven-per-cent-large engine, and ten more horsepower. Quite frankly, we had our hearts set on more. To make up for the breach between anticipated and delivered power levels, Honda tossed in a few goodies (a leather-wrapped steering wheel, better upholstery, alloy wheels) and made air conditioning, power windows, and a high-zoot sound system standard equipment. That in turn drove the price up enough that we started to wonder if this wasn't a repeat of the Coca-Cola fiasco.

Porsche 944/Turbo

Turbocharging is a way of life at Weissach. If a blower can possibly be bolted onto a Porsche engine, it will be — at the earliest opportunity.

Of course, the 944 Turbo is fun, fast, and frighteningly expensive.

Where does this leave the regular 944? The truth of the matter is that most of us prefer it to the Turbo for everything but flat-out, high-speed, get-in-to-the-church-on-time pursuits. The standard 944 has better throttle response, and its steering feels sharper on center.

Furthermore, the normally aspirated 944 is about the best sports-car value going. This is more than ever for 1986, because Porsche has seen fit to give this machine several new suspension components and a new instrument panel (both of which were developed for the Turbo) without raising the price a smidgen.

Saab 9000 Turbo

The hot news of the season is that Saab — persistent purveyor of automotive weirdness — has branched out. With the 9000 Turbo, Saab has joined the ranks

of conventional car builders. The move will not be taken lightly by the buying public, because Saab is not only building its first conventional car ever (no floor-mounted ignition switch, no fishbowl windshield, no mud flaps whatsoever) but also seizing the

opportunity to introduce a true, sports sedan.

The statistics are impressive, but better yet, the 9000 Turbo is a smooth and stable charger. It's firm when and where it should be, and supple everywhere else. The detailing is thoughtful and

comprehensive, as if the engineers and planners had saved their best brainstorms for this occasion.

Toyota MR2

The idea of using front-end chassis components as the basis

of an entertaining mid-engined sports car is hardly innovative, but Toyota's execution advances the concept to a new high. The heart of the matter is a soulful four-cylinder engine that thinks every Main Street is a Formula 1

RPM mill is one of the slickest-shifting five-speeds this side of a McLaren. The chassis is so nicely balanced that a capable set of hands on the wheel can play magic with this machine.

Aiding and abetting the 7500-

again.

Best seats: Porsche 944. The 944's optional sport buckets lack adjustable lumbar support or movable bolsters of any kind, yet they fit like a glove.

The secret to their success is a shape that works remarkably well on a wide variety of bodies. The side bolsters are pronounced, especially at rib-cage level, to hold you in the turns. And the padding is quite firm. You feel a part of this car without feeling pinched — even on long trips. Getting the basics right pays dividends.

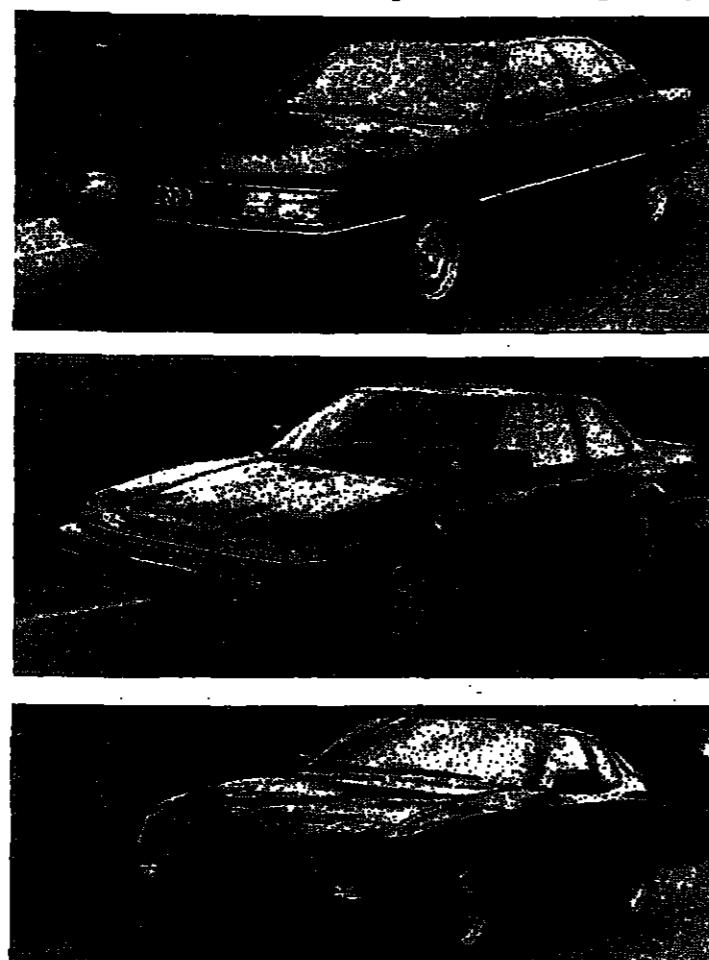
Best ergonomics: Toyota MR2. The relationship of the driver to the seat, the wheel, the switches, the controls, and the instruments is a personal issue.

The one vehicle that fit the bill was the MR2. Toyota went to great lengths to make its mid-engined sportsster roomy enough for lanky Americans. The padding is quite firm. You feel a part of this car without feeling pinched — even on long trips. Getting the basics right pays dividends.

Best handling: Porsche 944. The 944 doesn't bring home amazing skidpad numbers from the test track, and it does get beaten in the occasional made-for-advertising shoot-out — but out in the real world it cuts through the BS like a laser through creamcheese.

Best sex appeal: Ferrari Testarossa. Through good years and lean, fuel crises and gluts, eight cylinders and twelve, the Italian stallions have always captured the imagination.

The new, Pininfarina-designed Testarossa is about twice as wild. The redhead from Maranello is so low and wide that it looks capable of vacuuming up a street in one fell swoop. And it's so red that...



From top to bottom: Audi 5000CS Turbo Quattro; Honda Prelude and Porsche Turbo.

its best shot at the mark. Mercedes-Benz has done a commendable job with its 190 line, and others have nipped around the edges of Honda's hot-selling sedan, but no one has yet matched the Accord's combination of poise, performance, and price.

For 1986, Honda has for the second time thrown away a very successful Accord, and introduced a brand-new design. The new 2.0-liter engine hums

nicely penetration. The result is a Cd of just 0.31 (for the hatchback). To optimise the trade-offs between ride and handling, there are control arms rather than struts at all four corners. Roominess and cargo volumes have been increased appreciably in both three-door and four-door body styles.

Honda Prelude

Since the world has such a short memory for second-place

cars, one should remember, eighteen months ago, the Honda Prelude took on some very heavy competition in C/D's best-handling-import epic and blew all but one of the contenders right off the map.

In the meantime, Honda has attacked the Prelude's one basic shortcoming — it doesn't have 500 horsepower — in an effort to move it one notch closer to sports coupe heaven. Late in the 1983 model year, the new 2.0Si model was launched, with electronic fuel injection, a seven-per-cent-large engine, and ten more horsepower. Quite frankly, we had our hearts set on more.

To make up for the breach between anticipated and delivered power levels, Honda tossed in a few goodies (a leather-wrapped steering wheel, better upholstery, alloy wheels) and made air conditioning, power windows, and a high-zoot sound system standard equipment. That in turn drove the price up enough that we started to wonder if this wasn't a repeat of the Coca-Cola fiasco.

Imagining being able to build a car by picking and choosing the very best pieces from all the world's parts bins — as if you were assembling a giant Revell model.

Porsche 944/Turbo

Turbocharging is a way of life at Weissach. If a blower can possibly be bolted onto a Porsche engine, it will be — at the earliest opportunity.

Of course, the 944 Turbo is fun, fast, and frighteningly expensive.

Thanks to twin cams, four valves per cylinder, turbocharging, and intercooling, the 9000 Turbo's motor develops 160 hp from only 2.0 litres. What's more, it represents the zenith of the turbocharging science. It delivers the goods without lag or sag, its fuel economy is excellent, and it's smooth up high and torquey down low.

Best engine: Saab 9000 Turbo. Turbocharging is a way of life at Weissach. If a blower can possibly be bolted onto a Porsche engine, it will be — at the earliest opportunity.

Judge a car's steering not so much by a formal test, but by how it feels. A good steering system feels natural, and a great one feels wired into one's nervous system.

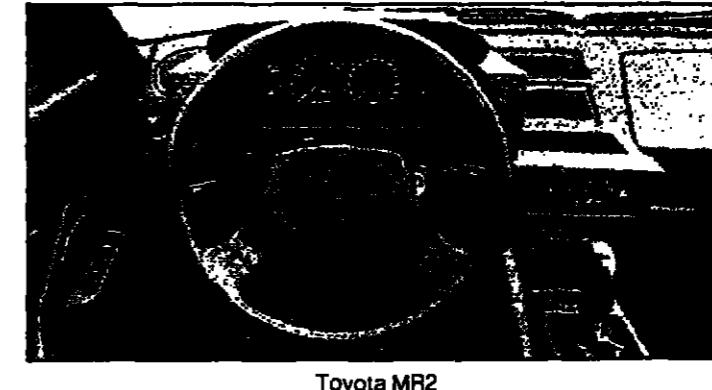
A great-steering car has poise, and makes you feel confident. On a winding road it goes where you point it. On the highway it maintains a true heading with no prompting. No car does these things better than the Coupe GT.

Best brakes: Chevrolet Corvette. Once you drive a car with anti-lock brakes there's no going back. To use these brakes all you have to do is to mash the pedal processor does the rest, allowing the car to be simultaneously slowed and steered around things you don't want to hit.

Sure, there are plenty of cars that can stop on a dime without ABS in controlled track tests. But now there are also a handful that offer the real-world safety advantages of ABS. Of those, the Vette stops the shortest.

Best steering: Audi Coupe GT. If you want to know how well

What if the world's best car came in a kit ...



Toyota MR2

your car steers, drive a Coupe GT. It's the hands-down ace in taking direction.

Judge a car's steering not so much by a formal test, but by how it feels. A good steering system feels natural, and a great one feels wired into one's nervous system.

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When it comes to the sort of handling that lets novices feel like heroes and makes experts bubble with enthusiasm, Porsche knows what's what. There's nothing like the 944's specifications that hints at the magic within: it's all in the detail work.

When it comes to the sort of handling that lets novices feel like heroes and makes experts bubble with enthusiasm, Porsche knows what's what. There's nothing like the 944's specifications that hints at the magic within: it's all in the detail work.

Best quality: Mercedes-Benz 560SEL. Mercedes-Benz products are the most solidly built cars on earth. They are as tight at 90,000 miles as most cars

are when new.

Careful scrutiny of any new 560SEL will show that, despite the inroads that have been made by the Japanese, this car still sets the standard for quality.

Best sex appeal: Ferrari Testarossa. Through good years and lean, fuel crises and gluts, eight cylinders and twelve, the Italian stallions have always captured the imagination.

The new, Pininfarina-designed Testarossa is about twice as wild. The redhead from Maranello is so low and wide that it looks capable of vacuuming up a street in one fell swoop. And it's so red that...

HONDA

Progress with Distinction

The New Honda Accord 1990: Engineered to the Last Detail

Honda Accord's fourth generation is an 'evolution'. Since its beginning in 1977, Honda Accord is steering in the direction of progress.

Virtually every part is new.

The Accord's new features that enhance performance, comfort and styling clearly place it in a class above its Japanese stable-mates. The new Accord exudes prestige and will pose a serious threat to the upper class cars from Europe. The new Accord sets new standards for manufacturing fit and finish quality, passenger comfort and driving pleasure.

Yet again Honda have incorporated their Formula 1 racing experience and successes in a masterly way. Both the 2-litre programmed carburetion and the 2.2-litre fuel injected engines are with 16 valves and deliver smooth, responsive power throughout the speed range to give exhilarating excitement to the driver. Two cleverly designed balancer shafts rotate in opposite directions at twice the speed of the crankshaft to significantly reduce engine vibration. Even at very high speed the car maintains remarkable roadholding due to its new suspension and steering system. It grips the road like no other to give the driver a reassuring feeling of control and safety.

The cabin is not only large, comfortable and elegant. It is also water-quiet due to the unique insulation of a steel foil sandwich melt sheet on the floor and bulkhead and a honeycomb insulation on the roof. Minimised gaps and seams between body panels virtually eliminate wind noise. As the passenger compartment is insulated against noise from the engine, road and wind, the fatigue factor is substantially reduced.

All round visibility is enhanced by large wraparound glass areas, and body rigidity is increased by 40%.

In creating the new Accord, Honda has redefined the concept of a Sedan car. It is as exciting to behold as it is to drive. As softly elegant on the exterior, interior as it is tough and beautiful on the exterior. As openly spacious for the passenger as it is dynamic and exciting for the driver.

**NEW
ACCORD**

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POWERED by HONDA F-1

Mitsubishi: an all-round manufacturer

MITSUBISHI Motors exhibited 22 passenger cars (8 of which are special show models) and 14 commercial vehicles at the 28th Tokyo Motor Show (see page 16) from October 27 through November 6 at the Makuhari Messe in Chiba Prefecture, just outside Tokyo. Through the 36 vehicles on display, Mitsubishi Motors demonstrated its very positive development stance towards car-building as an all-round manufacturer offering an extensive lineup of vehicles ranging from mini-sized cars to heavy trucks and large buses.

Passenger cars

In the passenger car section, Mitsubishi Motors exhibits eight special show models which ambitiously incorporate the very latest Mitsubishi automotive technology. The introduction of advanced aerodynamics and electronics control technologies in the HSR-II (High Sophisticated

Running Research) advanced research vehicle realises a dramatic improvement in motoring performance, even making automatic tracking and parking possible.

In the luxury and high-performance sports car segments, Mitsubishi Motors is exhibiting:

- * The Eclipse high-performance international sports coupe which is proving overwhelmingly popular in America (Japanese launch scheduled for early 1990).

- * The Diamante high-grade large compact hardtop, which incorporates the latest technology nurtured in the HSR-II project and which fits into a world-size class (Japanese launch scheduled for spring 1990);

- * The HSX super-performance sports car, which also incorporates much HSR-II technology and fits into a world-size class.



Mercedes setting high standards

Speed, comfort, luxury and safety are combined in the new Mercedes-Benz convertibles, the 500 SL, 300 SL-24 with eight and six-cylinder engines that will be available on the Kuwait market shortly.

The world premiere for the new Mercedes-Benz SL received rave reviews for enhancing the traditionally high standards set for luxury sports cars.

Coupled with a dynamic appeal, the new SL is an engineering marvel, incorporating abundant innovative design features, giving an unequalled fascination for open driving in typical convertible style.

All SL models, including for the first time the six-cylinder models, are available with the option of acceleration skid control (ASR). Combined with standard ABS features and electronic engine control, this ensures maximum safety reserves even under the most difficult road surface conditions.

Another new feature is the automatic locking differential (ASD). As this is electronically controlled and automatically operated, the system relieves the driver of stress and thus improves handling and personal safety.

One of the most important new features introduced in the convertible is the adaptive damping system (ADS) with an automatic level adjustment and control system. ADS permanently adjusts the damper characteristics to the prevailing driving and road conditions, changing settings from one to another (there are four settings) automatically. This new technology ensures optimum comfort and maximum safety under all load conditions.

An added feature is that ADS, coupled with automatic level adjustment and control, ensures the car remains at a constant level, irrespective of the load and its distribution. At high speeds of above 120 kmph, the bodywork is automatically lowered by 15 mm to increase road holding stability and reduced drag.

To enhance safety, a new

feature was introduced. The new SLs are fitted with 16 inch wheels; all four wheels are decelerated by generously dimensioned disc brakes, to increase brake reliability and brake power reserves; the front brake discs are internally ventilated. This is in addition to the standard anti-lock braking system (ABS) feature.

Another notable feature in the SLs is the ability to provide interior heating even with the engine switched off. For example, at traffic lights, in traffic jams or during quick shopping stops, SL users can press the "Rest" key to use the residual heat of the engine to heat the interior. Air quantity and distribution are automatically controlled.

Some of the standard features to enhance comfort are: electric windows, central locking; added features include the internal locking and infrared remote control unit for central locking; adjustable steering column; a memory feature for electric seat, mirror and steering column adjustment.

The image of the new Mercedes-Benz SL series lives up to and enhances the legendary appeal of the series. Together with classic elegance, the new SLs are dynamic and powerful.

One of the features of this trendy classic is that it has capacity to accelerate from standstill to 100 kmph between 6.2 and 9.3 seconds; its top speed ranges from 23 to 250 kmph.

At Daimler-Benz, safety is of paramount importance and there is no room for compromise. The SL incorporates all the active safety features like the ASR, ASD, ABS. In addition, the passive safety features like seat belt tensioner, airbag for driver and co-driver and energy absorbing crumple zones as well as many other hidden safety features which are vital to protect passengers.

In years to come, the new SL convertibles will be remembered for continuing the tradition and high standards set for luxury sports cars from Mercedes-Benz.

Carhaps this happened to you

IN Houston, a reporter was fired by Traffic Central, an outfit that provides many radio stations with up-to-date RUSH HOUR traffic reports. "He was fired," a Traffic Central official told the Houston Post, "because he had a knack for having accidents and tying up traffic."

Here's proof that Los Angeles itself is a NATION of cars. New Perspectives in Transportation Research found that two-thirds of all the land in downtown Los Angeles is used for streets and highways, parking lots and garages, and car-repair and gas stations.

Another example of government misinformation? This ad ran in the Pentagram, a free newspaper (not sponsored by the Department of Defence) distributed at the Pentagon: "81 Mazda GLC Wagon — good brakes, battery, muffler, good mileage, always starts ... good condition except ENGINE, needs new one. Will consider any offer."

"Don't COMPLAIN about your traffic ticket," begins a sign spotted in an Indianapolis traffic courtroom by longtime con-

In the commercial vehicle section, meanwhile, Mitsubishi Motors is exhibiting seven heavy, medium and light trucks, and two buses.

* The Mitsubishi Intelligent Network System, a new proposal for the physical distribution industry which raises operating efficiency, enables the operator to respond immediately to customer requirements, and provides a more pleasant and comfortable working environment for the driver, through the installation of advanced information equipment in trucks with elevated levels of road-performance, economy, haulage performance and safety.

* The Guppy advanced collection/delivery light truck (special show model) sports a mechanical specification which includes six wheel-steering for outstanding manoeuvrability, and independent front and air rear suspension for gentler

carrying of cargo, as well as an intelligent equipment specification which includes MCA (Multi Control Access System) wireless, handy computer terminal, and personal computer.

* The Great FU410 Wing Body heavy truck boasts a new high-performance 24-valve intercooler-turbocharged engine (350 ps net), ABS and SSFS (Speed Sensitive Power Steering), as well as an intelligent equipment specification which supports the "En-route Communication System" communication system of the future.

* The Canter FE449 Aero-Van light truck powered by a new 145ps intercooler-turbocharger engine and with a full specification of the latest information communications equipment.

* The Canter FE437 Aero-Suspension light truck for precision machinery and

equipment transportation.

* In the bus segment,

* The Aero-Queen MV Super High-Decker super-deluxe large bus makes the ideal high-speed route bus, or sightseeing bus.

* The Aero-Midi MJ Super Exceed intelligent small bus is 200mm higher than the Aero-Midi model, on which it is based, and provides a really comfortable living space, as well as carrying a full complement of office automation equipment.

* Also displayed are five RVs and wagons, including the Minica Toppo-based Minica Toppo Compoza mini-RV (special show model) which features a lounging seat for two on the roof.

* HSX (Special show model)

The HSX is a new age super-performance sports car which

represents the embodiment of the HSR-II's scintillating road-performance in a more production oriented form.

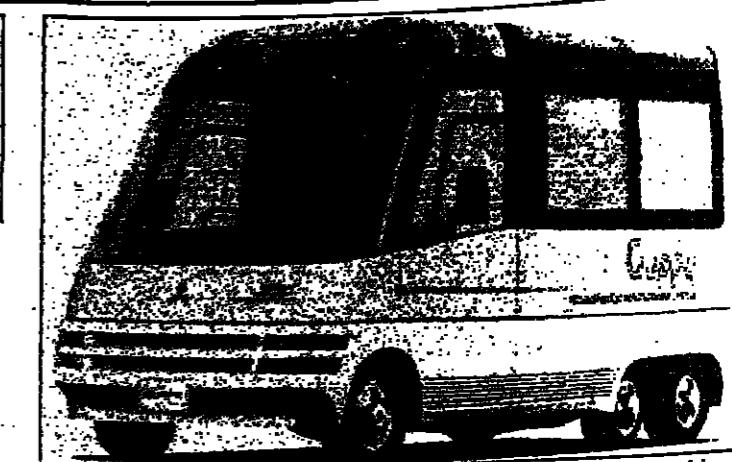
Its advanced technology specification includes a high-performance 3-litre V6 Dohc twin intercooler-turbocharger power unit, full-time all-wheel drive, four-wheel-steering, and anti-lock braking on all wheels.

Also, the utilization of high-level aerodynamics technology befitting a new age sports car realizes outstanding aerodynamic characteristics.

Commercial vehicle section

Guppy (Special show model)

Features a full component and equipment specification for the light collection/delivery truck of the near future, including six wheel-steering for superb manoeuvrability in



narrow side-streets, cargo-friendly independent front and air rear suspension, automatic swing-slide door and step for driver, swing-up steering column and swivel air-suspension driver's seat, and a rear-view monitor.

And, with its full specification of intelligent equipment—including MCA wireless, handy computer terminal, personal computer, bar code printer, operations

recorder—which enables this leading-edge collection-delivery vehicle of the new physical distribution age to support advanced information

communication systems, all the collection, sorting and delivery data can be positively managed simply by pressing a few keys.

This significantly reduces the driver's work load, as well as making it possible to respond to customer requirements in real time.

90's.... is Al-Babtain & Nissan Decade

Al-Babtain and Nissan are proud to present the 1990 Laurel Altima. The car of the 90's that has turned things around for the car industry in Japan.

- Advanced elegant design.
- Innovative engineering and high performance to perfectly suit the design of the car.
- Advanced multi-link suspension system - the best of its kind in the world.
- Easy to maintain at reasonable cost.
- High quality warranted for 2 years / or 40,000 km

Test drive the Laurel Altima today at Al-Babtain Showrooms.

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Exhibit 150



Jaguar XJ6

Ford takes over Jaguar

BY the end of the month Jaguar will be wholly owned subsidiary of Ford of Great Britain. For Jaguar, the next five years will bring better market penetration, more stable earnings and greater profitability. After that there will be new model lines, expansion at Browns Lane, and technology to rival Mercedes, BMW and Lexus.

For Ford, with a massive £1.6 billion hole in its pocket, the move necessitates further huge spending in the future. In return the company will have, in the words of Lindsey Halstead, chairman of Ford Europe, "an upmarket prestige model range in a market segment that outstrips growth in the market as a whole". Jaguar is Ford's ready-made Lexus division.

The take-over announcement last month followed Ford's quick response to the Department of Trade and Industry dropping its special "golden share". The formal offer for 100 per cent of Jaguar's share capital was made after Nicholas Ridley had announced that there were to be no restrictions on shareholdings greater than 15 per cent.

The £8.50 per share offer values the company at £1.6 billion — over 110 per cent more than on September 18 this year, the day before Ford announced its intention.

Shareholders have been informed of Jaguar's formal recommendation to accept Ford's offer for the 86.8 per cent of Jaguar it doesn't already own.

General Motors, which

Jaguar had been courting publicly, never got a look-in. Ford moved so quickly. A statement from GM confirmed that negotiations had been under way for nine months for GM to back Jaguar and to buy a minority share.

The statement said: "After an intensive review of Jaguar's products and plants and in view of the losses currently being sustained by them, together with Jaguar's significant future cash and other requirements, GM concluded that the maximum value that could be assigned to all of the Jaguar shares was very significantly below the £8.50 being offered."

Egan was candid about GM's role. Discussions had been under way he said, and Ford was informed of this. Although Jaguar and Ford did not discuss the takeover until after the formal offer last Wednesday, Ford had repeatedly contacted Jaguar since it take-over plans had been made public.

A new Jaguar business plan will be worked out before the end of the year. It will mirror closely that is already under way at Browns Lane: reducing costs, increasing production and introducing new work practices.

With Jaguar's current facilities, production could not be expected to exceed 80,000 cars a year, and Ford will not be planning to increase that within the next five years. Egan confirmed, however, that the take-over would make projects like XJ 41/F-type and XJ220 more feasible.

COUNTDOWN

March 1988: Sir John Egan begins searching for ways to maintain independence when the golden share expires.

May 26 1989: Jaguar shares leap in value when Ford chairman Donald Petersen tells the Chicago Tribune that "Jaguar fits our standards".

July 20 1989: Jaguar shares top the £4 mark and the City says the golden share is Jaguar's only chance of independence.

September 13 1989: Sir John Egan admits to talks with other manufacturers as Jaguar announces that profits for the first half of the year have collapsed to £1.4 million from £22 million in 1988.

September 19 1989: Ford announces it intends gaining a 15 per cent stake in Jaguar, adding that 100 per cent acquisition is the goal.

September 20 1989: Government says it "might not" exercise the golden share to protect Jaguar. Jaguar describes Ford interest as "unwelcome".

September 21 1989: Shares jump again as the Prime Minister endorses Ford's acquisition of shares.

September 23 1989: Wall Street rumours suggest GM is preparing to match Ford's interest.

October 6 1989: US Federal Trade Commission gives Ford the go-ahead to buy more than the regulation 1 per cent of Jaguar shares.

October 7 1989: News breaks of Jaguar-General Motors talks, with GM offering to take an initial 15 per cent holding, rising to 30 per cent when the golden share expires.

October 8 1989: Jaguar shares hit £7 as GM lodges application to US Federal Trade Commission for permission to join Ford in battle for Jaguar shares.

October 9 1989: Jaguar confirms that GM is the preferred partner.

October 18 1989: Egan uses Motorfair to announce that he is "hopeful of announcing a formal deal with GM".

October 31 1989: Ridley says he is prepared to waive the golden share.

November 2 1989: Jaguar shares peak briefly at £10 when Jaguar and Ford announce a £1.6 billion offer. GM pulls out of race.

Practical advice on car security

CAR THEFT is big business. It's also an easy business, thanks to the many motorists who are stupid enough to leave their cars unlocked. Some people are just plain unlucky. They lock their cars, and still lose them. The strong belief is that should a professional thief want to steal your car, he will do exactly that and there's nothing that can be done to stop him.

It is necessary for others to assume an increasing responsibility and not leave it to the individual motorists: "Car security-related features should really be offered by manufacturers as options, alongside sunroofs and stereo radios. Some manufacturers are better than others, but in general they're not doing enough."

The problem for manufacturers is that security items do not have the appeal of sunroofs and stereo radios. They are not items that can be used to sell cars: manufacturers generally view the relatively small size of the car security after market as a firm indication that the public are not that interested.

"It would help a great deal if insurance companies for instance would recognise when people try and make their cars more secure and offer policy discounts accordingly," one police officer.

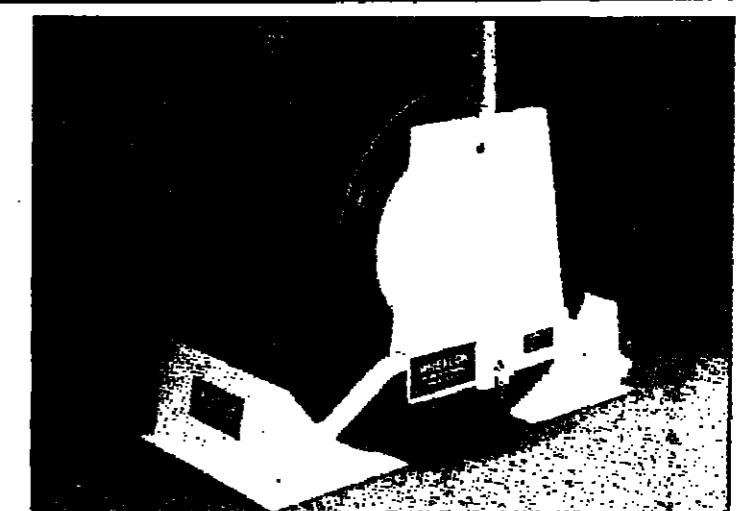
"This would act as an incentive for people to do more. It makes sense because no matter what anyone says, cars that have some sort of security device on them, be it an alarm or etched windows, are likely to be stolen."

So are cars that are always locked?

So how can you protect your



Left: A key pad on the computalok ensures that only authorised people can start the car. Right: The wheellok, the ultimate in thief-proofing devices.



car and its contents? While it is not feasible to make a car completely "thief-proof", you can quite easily make the car a less attractive proposition to the would-be thief. A simple device like a Krooklok, which locks brake or clutch pedal to the steering wheel rim, may not put off the professional, but it will deter the joy-riders. A rather more expensive solution might be a Lionweld Wheellok. Yes, these are the same as the Police use for clamping the wheels of illegally parked cars — and they have proved almost impossible to remove unlawfully. There is now even a size to fit commercial vehicle wheels.

Identifying a stolen car can pose a few problems. But engrave the car's real registration number on the windscreen and windows, and a thief might have trouble explaining that away. There are two means of doing this. One uses an acid-based etching kit, but this can only be used on glass.

More useful are the engraving kits, which have a diamond-hard engraving tool and a stencil panel. This system also allows tools, cycles — almost anything with a hard surface to be easily and indelibly marked with an identity symbol.

There are many alarm systems which use the car's own horn or a separate siren to scare away a would-be-thief. They can be triggered in a variety of ways, by vibration, the closing of a switch in the door, bonnet or boot shuts, or by detecting the slight drop in voltage as the interior light comes on at the door is opened.

At the top of the electronic tree are the sophisticated ultrasonic and computer-linked systems. The former will detect any movement within the car, while the latter isolate ignition and sound an alarm unless the correct personal identification number (PIN) is entered on a key pad. Expensive — but effective.

At the same time as you are

Tyres

Check air pressure in the tyres at least once a week. Always check when tyres are cool. Check wheel balance and condition of the limb bearing can affect the road worthiness and life of the tyres.

A lack of wheel and tyre balance and condition of the limb bearing can affect the road worthiness and life of the tyres.

Prepared by Salyia Wickramasinghe

Maintenance of vehicle made easy

Engine oil and filter

CHANGE oil according to car manufacturer's recommended mileage; replace oil-filter element at every second oil change. Filters cannot be cleaned.

Carburetor/Air Filter

Clean/replace air filter every 5,000-10,000 km intervals; spray solvent to clean carburetor linkages, choke shaft, fast idle cam and pivoting points every 10,000 kms or six month intervals. This

is necessary to prevent damage caused by dust.

Brakes

Inspect brakes once in 10,000 kms to ensure pads and linings are not worn down to rivets; prevents expensive job of replacement of brake discs and drums. Clean dirt and dust accumulated during normal driving.

Lights

Ensure all lights are in good working order; it is an offence to drive cars without all lights.

Windscreen wipers-washers

Driving with bad windscreen wipers is hazardous. Bad visibility is a major cause of accidents. Change wiper blades when necessary.

Battery

Inspect battery at least once in three months. Check gravity of electrolyte; ensure battery posts and connectors are clean of corrosion.

Engine cooling system

Check coolant level in a non-sealed cooling system once a week.

For a sealed system, follow instructions in car manual. Inspect radiator twice a year to clear it of leaves, dead flies and paper to enable free flow of air.

The efficiency of the cooling system depends on the fan belt. Make sure the fan belt is not loose or damaged. Overheating could be dangerous.

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An engine part that got destroyed due to lack of oil pressure.

What can go wrong

THE PERFECT motorist doesn't exist but if he did, when his new car first arrived, he would start by looking in the handbook. He would then know the grade, specification and make of oil approved for the car, and he would never deviate from this.

Mr Ideal would check the oil level frequently and top up even when the smallest amount was required. Of course he wouldn't allow the car to go a mile over the drain interval recommended by the makers. He would even go out of his way to avoid short journeys, while also ensuring that the engine warmed up quickly without the choke being left out.

Super-Salesman and Aunt Minnie are very different from Mr Ideal, but a lot closer to the real world. Super Salesman rarely drives in town (good) but blasts up and down the motorways, forgets to dip the oil, waiting for the oil warning light to come on and invariably overruns the recommended drain intervals.

Surveys indicate that some 60 per cent of car journeys are less than six miles in duration. Aunt Minnie only goes two miles to the shops and the car is always on choke. She never needs to top the oil up but believes because she does so few miles it is still okay to stick to the recommended 6,000-mile oil drain intervals. So fresh oil and a new filter are bought every second or third year.

While Mr Ideal's engine will be good for 100,000 miles, his two counterparts are shortening the life of harming the performance of their engines, though for different reasons.

The consequences of Super-Salesman not topping his oil up, or perhaps Aunt Minnie using poor quality oil, are very similar. Eric Johnson, chief chemist at BL Technology explains. "Either of these causes distress to the additives; the result is excess-

sive oil consumption and engine failure in some cases, though it could just be sticking piston rings or worn valve guides and a smoky engine."

"We are looking for 100,000 miles before the wear-out point," he says. "By additive depletion you can induce this wear-out conditions way before the 100,000-mile period."

The wear-out point can be determined by monitoring the metallic content of oil samples taken from the engine. As the engine runs in from new the sharp edges of the metal are worn off, but then the metallic content settles down during normal running. Past the wear-out point, the engine wear rate is accelerating, valve guides and rings will be worn and oil consumption rising as gums, lacquers and sludge progressively clog the engine.

The graphs show that if you were summarily to double the oil drain interval of your car you would be running the risk of quadrupling the wear rate of the cam followers and at least doubling piston ring wear.

Less obvious would be the other consequences of depleting the additives. After overrunning the drain interval by a few thousand miles, the formation of sludge and black gums in the oil will put the level of insolubles 50 per cent above the same limit.

These will thicken the oil at ambient temperatures, so restricting the oil flow when starting the engine and increasing wear. The base materials in the additives will no longer be able to cope with the ingress of acids, which will then be free to attack bearings. Also the natural lubricity of the base oil will have been reduced, leading directly to a rise in friction.

Exceed oil drain interval with recommended oil and you pass the wear-out point, Johnson cau-

tions. "If a bad oil is used, we would have reached the high wear condition well before the 12,000-mile point." Austin Rover cars operate to a 12,000-mile drain interval.

It might seem obvious to assume that an engine that doesn't use much oil is in good condition, but it's not always the case. Aunt Minnie's driving cycle will produce massive fuel dilution of the oil. Over 10 percent of the oil volume could be fuel.

This will certainly be the case if your car floods easily when starting and is a poor starter in winter, unused fuel tipped into the cylinders will always find its way into the oil. The presence of this fuel in the oil will lower its viscosity and in arduous conditions the oil film will be too thin, allowing disastrous metal-to-metal contact of bearing surfaces. When the oil film fails around the piston rings, for instance, there may be localised pressure welding.

This obviously roughens the surface and causes a rapid rise in friction.

At the other end of the fuel-dilution scale is the Super-Salesman: if he keeps to the recommended drain intervals, he will suffer fuel dilution in the oil of only perhaps 0.2 per cent.

The car makers have in recent years progressively moved away from 20W-50 oils to 10W-30 or 15W-40 in most cases. Does using thicker 20W-50s give your engine better protection, even if your handbook says use the thinner oils? The answer is a categorical no, and in fact you will be creating many problems.

The incentive for the car makers to go to thinner oils was improved fuel consumption up to four per cent, but typically about three per cent. With thicker oil, this advantage will be forfeited. For very low temperature starting, the size of the battery and starter motor are optimised.

Gear change: the right way

BAD GEAR-changing can lose you friends. Just think of the number of times you've sat alongside a driver and cringed at the ham-fisted, unthinking way he has done battle with the gearbox.

It's first with the force of a left-hook from a heavyweight, sharp off the clutch to get that macho squeal from the rear tyres and when — and only when — the engine has hit valve bounce, does he slam the poor gearlever down into second. And there's still another three gears to abuse.

Slowing down can be even worse. With imminent disaster ahead, it's heavy on the brakes, slam the gear ever down a notch or three, back on the brakes again, a fumbled attempt at heel-and-toeing with a final crunch into second as his piece of resistance. At this point, it takes a brave man not to want to make a rapid exit and catch the bus home.

If there is one overriding hallmark of a good driver, it is smoothness. Sit alongside someone who handles the controls with delicacy and finesse and you simply don't notice the speed you're travelling or the amount of traffic around. But smooth driving is something that needs to be taught and followed up with plenty of practice. As they say, any jerk can jerk.

The most abused component in any car is the clutch, so let's start there. Bad drivers adore using the clutch, they use it to slow down, as a cover-up for being in the wrong gear at the

wrong time, and through laziness because they can't be bothered to pull on the handbrake at traffic lights. Think of ten unnecessary gear changes made in a mile of motoring and then multiply this by 10,000 — the average annual mileage — and you can see why garages make a lot of money out of clutch replacements.

Too many drivers start off from rest by engaging the clutch with the engine revving far too fast. For a gentle take-off, there should be a silky co-ordination between the handbrake, the engine revs and the clutch to glide away at no more than twice idle speed on the level. Only when the clutch is fully engaged should the power be used to accelerate smoothly away.

What is lost by engaging the clutch sympathetically, can always be made up by using the power and acceleration of a fast car. Instead, many drivers abuse the clutch, riding the pedal at the traffic lights in the race to be first away, crossing the line on amber. It's a guaranteed way to burn out your clutch and earn yourself a three-point penalty on your licence.

The way it should be done is clutch down, engage first and with the engine revs raised only slightly above idle speed, lift the clutch pedal. Only when it's fully "home" should you accelerate cleanly and smoothly.

Once the car is on the move, the clutch should be treated like an electric switch — either in or out and never slipped or dragged.



Top: Braking foot must be firmly on pedal.



Right: The wrong way to charge up

There are no Brownie points for turning a corner in third gear when you should be in second and covering it up by dipping the clutch. That just shows the driver's not concentrating or is severely lacking in anticipation. On the move, your left foot should only be on the clutch when changing gear or at stall speed just before stopping.

Again, simply too many people only have to see a junction or a set of traffic lights ahead and their left foot buries the clutch pedal in the carpet. It's far smoother to coast up to the traffic lights, slowing the car down with the brakes, and only when you reach the point where you have to stop do you depress the clutch.

Changing down causes insensitive drivers all sorts of problems. It's brakes on late, down to third with the right foot still braking and no synchronisation of the engine revs, then down to second with the same dragging clutch abuse.

For changing up, again palm the lever for direction of effort. Cover the clutch, off power, select neutral to allow the revs to drop and then complete the

change-up with synchronised clutch, power and gear lever movements.

Many gearchange difficulties can be overcome by double-declutching, particularly in changing down a gear from quite high speed, say on approaching a fast, sweeping and open bend. Gearboxes on high performance cars have a lot of power to transmit, so the gears tend to be wide with consequent high inertia of the primary and lay shafts. Double-declutching reduces the resistance on the synchromesh and allows smoother changes.

The method in changing down involved depressing the clutch and moving the lever into neutral, momentarily lifting the clutch, increasing the engine revs and then depressing the clutch pedal and selecting a lower gear. The smoothness of the movement will come with practice, but don't go for speed at the expense of accuracy — that's unless you want a box full of neutrals.

Batteries: an integral part of cars

Making the right choices

By S. Bremenstahl

WANT to avoid jump starting your car? The right choice of battery brand and proper maintenance will save you this problem and... some money.

Most of us, car owners, are lost among the variety of battery brands available on the market. What should we buy and where?

The car makers have in recent years progressively moved away from 20W-50 oils to 10W-30 or 15W-40 in most cases. Does using thicker 20W-50s give your engine better protection, even if your handbook says use the thinner oils? The answer is a categoric no, and in fact you will be creating many problems.

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The incentive for the car makers to go to thinner oils was improved fuel consumption up to four per cent, but typically about three per cent. With thicker oil, this advantage will be forfeited. For very low temperature starting, the size of the battery and starter motor are optimised.

However, there exist plans

among car manufacturers to produce battery-for-life, as an integrated part of a future car. The new type of Nickel-Cadmium battery with Fibre-structured electrodes (FNC) could fulfill this role, with its 40 years expected lifetime, and other surprises.

Now, back to the L-A battery. Its performance and life-time depend mainly on the following factors:

- quality
- proper "putting into operation"
- careful maintenance
- external factors like weather conditions, state of car electrical system, etc
- misuse

Quality is cheapest

This well known saying works in this business as well as in every other. But seems not to be taken into consideration by most customers. A quality battery costs 60-100 per cent more than the cheapest one. But its life-time is

longer by 5-10 times, not mentioning long guarantees and much better performance (higher so-called cranking current). So, although we pay more initially, in the long run, we save on money and the headache of frequent changes and problems with starting.

This new system was invented recently (1972-1982) by DAUG-Research Laboratory, a joint subsidiary of Daimler-Benz and Volkswagen, and is produced by Hoppecke (W. German manufacturer of the highest quality batteries) in a joint-venture company, called DA-HO (Daug-Hoppecke).

Unfortunately, the application of this idea in the car industry is still a dream of the future, albeit, more for commercial than technical reasons. Therefore, if you cannot get what you like, you have to like what you get, i.e. L-A batteries. Notabene, Ni-Cd batteries are being used widely as Emergency

Bosch and Sonnenchein with the same score. The other competitors were ... "not recommended."

Location of the manufacturer's workshops affects quality of products. An unfortunate practice exists in Kuwait of not indicating the origin of some batteries. Being convinced of buying a European product we actually purchase an Asian one (e.g. from Singapore). The only factor revealing this fact is considerably lower price.

Putting into operation

This funny sounding technical term means a lot to battery performance and life-time. It is extremely important that some basic rules are observed while initially filling-in electrolyte and charging a battery. Unfortunately, they are not commonly followed locally, and then customers wonder why their batteries have such a short life-time.

Motor show....

(Continued from Page 16)

shed in a lurid bright metallic pink, the grp/carbon fibre-bodied Constellation uses a 220bhp 3-litre doc 24-valve V6, Suzuki's largest engine yet.

Feeding on the remarkable success of its MX-5 sports car, the reaction to the new 323 range, Mazda's theme for the show "Sports and Pleasure" was reflected in the variety of production and concept cars on display. Top billing went to Cosmos, a triple rotor, two-door coupe intended, Mazda claims, purely for Japan although many felt it would be a hit in the US.

Built on a 108.2ins wheelbase, the simply styled yet elegant Cosmo goes into production in February and will be sold through the Eunos dealer network, which is also responsible for the MX-5 and sells the Cirrus range in Japan.

Mazda won't release power figures for the 20B rotary engine (the car will also be offered with the twin rotor 13B engine) but informed sources suggest at least 200bhp is likely, given the apparent effectiveness of its sequential twin turbocharging system.

At the other extreme Mazda has jumped back into Japan's K-class for 300c cars with great gusto. Using a lightweight aluminium frame and the versatility of bolt-on-glass fibre body panels, Mazda showed off three cheeky and very different mid-engined baby sports cars and the Carol, a more conventional micro saloon. Officially, Mazda maintains the AZ550 models are just testing the market reaction but insiders claim the Type-A, a tiny gulwing, will get the nod and is already destined for a real-life career. Power comes from a doc 550cc, 12-valve turbocharged Suzuki engine developing 64bhp at 7500rpm.

The contradictions of Japanese automotive development are

perfectly embodied in Mitsubishi's offerings. On the one hand the BMW 5-series clone Diamond proved that Japanese designers are still happy to take the best of Europe and adopt it to their own requirements. If the 3-litre V6 four-door saloon had a twin kidney nose it could easily be a BMW.

Mitsubishi admits its HSR-11 is no more than a show car designed to road test new engineering concepts before they go into production on far more prosaic models. In its latest form the Mk II version uses computers to control a whole series of aircraft-like flaps and rudders, it calls CCV, Control Configured Vehicle. By actively controlling the air which flows around the car, Mitsubishi says it can achieve previously unattainable degrees of stability and roadholding.

Hyundai made its first appearance at Tokyo. Having performed a remarkable US sales growth, the company has suffered a decline over the past year and now says it wants to spread its exports across a wider base with particular emphasis on Europe and South East Asia. In addition to the 3-litre Sonata, Hyundai showed off its new Excel saloon and SLC coupe.

Both are conservatively styled and were done in-house although full design did help with the detail. While the SLC is built on a slightly shorter wheelbase than the saloon, suspension and running gear are shared.

The Japanese put on a show that left the Western manufacturers breathless. Some of the cars clearly missed the mark, but that still left enough to hit the Europeans and Americans where it hurt. Above all, Tokyo provided conclusive evidence that the Japanese are setting a scorching pace which the rest of the world is struggling to match.

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More exclusive interior. New, comfortable seats with improved lateral support. New, attractive fabric design. Additional fine wood panels. Extended standard appointments.

Greater technical refinement. Clearly increased ride comfort due to fully matched power train. A powerful increase in performance in many models due to new, optimally matched side and transmission ratios.

Three new top models with four-valve technology and new Sportline version complete a wave of innovations which sets standards for the 1990s.

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The brush off

After getting a freshly machined block back from the shop, the first order of business is to clean it thoroughly with soap and water. It is especially important to give the cylinders a good scrubbing to ensure that all traces of machine oil and metal cuttings are removed. But the clean-up must be done carefully to avoid damaging the bore finishes.

Wash rags, shop towels, or sponges may be used for general block cleaning work, but when it comes to the cylinders, a large bottle brush (available at most grocery or drug stores) proves to be the ideal instrument. The bristles will easily dislodge foreign matter that might otherwise be left in place. And the shape of the brush eliminates the possibility of scraping or gouging the bore surface.

Current events

Attempting to locate an underhood or underdash electrical power source is a snap. Just pull out your voltmeter and poke the probes around until the needle jumps. But the body contortions necessary to investigate the vast unknown hiding underneath the instrument panel frequently make it impossible to lay your hands on the wires while keeping your head positioned to read the meter.

This being the case, you need to listen, not look. The various buzzers used for seat belt and key-left-in-ignition warning system make excellent audio voltmeters. And best of all, they're free. You've probably disconnected one or more of the pesky buzzers already, so all you have to do is pull it out of the car, attach two wires to it and viola—voltage is only a buzz away.

Another possibility, if you'd like to see the effect of 12 volts rather than hearing it, is to find an old lamp socket (with bulb). Add two wires with stripped ends, and when you hit the voltage jackpot, the lamp will light irrespective of the device used, be sure to have solid connections, and remember that in order for either the lamp or buzzer to function, electricity must flow through it. This means that one side will have to be connected to ground. On some light sockets, the ground connection is a metal tang that snaps into the socket housing.

Slow it down

There are two sides to every story, and the tale of vacuum advance is no different. It just may be that the rate at which vacuum advance increases—not the total amount of timing change—is the culprit responsible for part-throttle detonations. A few years ago, Crane Cams introduced an adjustable vacuum advance mechanism to address the situation. Unfortunately, these canisters are available only for distributors fitting GM V-8's and Chrysler "B," "LA," and slant-six engines.

But owners of other engines need not despair. To make your own vacuum advance rate adjustments, simply purchase a plastic "T" fitting and insert it in the line leading from the carburetor to the vacuum advance canister. Then slip a short piece of hose over the remaining leg of the fitting and screw a carburetor jet into the open end. The jet orifice, being open to the atmosphere, will bleed off some of the manifold vacuum that would otherwise be applied to the canister. As jet diameter is increased, vacuum advance start-up is delayed and the rate of advance is slowed. Begin with a .025-inch diameter jet and change size up or down, as required. It's best to connect the line to a ported vacuum source so that the bleed doesn't affect idle quality.

Depth perceptions

When drilling a number of holes to a predetermined depth, wrapping a piece of masking tape so its edge is at the correct distance from the end of the bit will give a quick and easy indication of when the hole is deep enough.

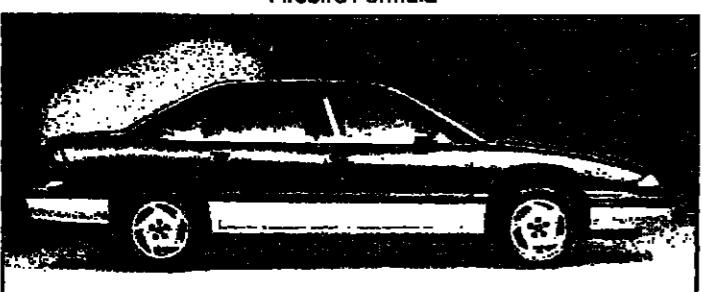
Getting a grip

Unless you have hands of steel, you probably have to use a gear puller to remove an old timing gear from a crankshaft snout. Unfortunately, most high-performance crank snouts are drilled and tapped for a bolt to retain the harmonic balancer, so there's nothing for the puller to pull against. You can protect the crank snout threads and still get the gear off if you insert an Allen bolt in the hole, as shown. The Allen socket also keeps the gear puller centred while you bear down on the threaded shaft.

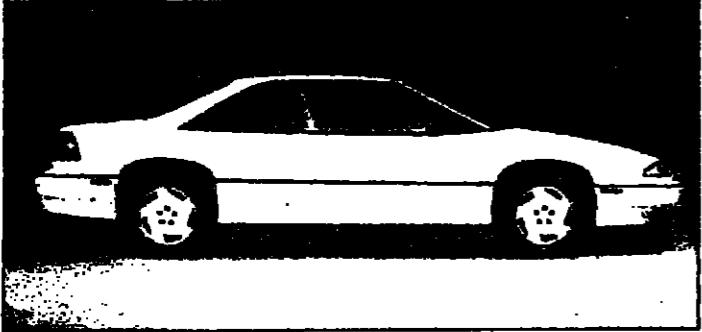
Alghanim presents the new 1990 models



Firebird Formula



Grand Prix Sedan



SE Coupe

GENERAL MOTORS is the leading automotive manufacturer in the world. This position of world leadership is the result of more than 80 years of commitment to providing customers with the highest quality automotive products backed by a world-wide network of authorised dealers.

General Motors Overseas Distribution Corporation (GMODC) appointed the first Middle East GM dealer in 1947. Since then, General Motors cars and trucks have played a major role in the development of infrastructures throughout the Middle East.

GMODC works closely with each of the GCC standards organisations to ensure that GM vehicles meet or exceed current safety and operating standards. All GM vehicles are specially engineered, designed and tested to meet the extreme operating conditions that exist throughout the Middle East.

GM commitment to excellence begins as a customer enters the showroom and continues throughout the

ownership experience. The investment is protected by the GMODC warranty and after sales service, supported by the factory trained technical consultants and a full range of spare parts.

General Motors ... over 40 years of Middle East experience one can trust.

Grand Prix Coupe SE: the leading edge of automotive design and state of art technology.

Pontiac Firebird 1990: the ultimate in pure driving excitement.

Specifications:
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 • Power front disc, rear drum brakes
 • Tilt steering wheel
 • Reclining bucket seat
 • Power windows, door locks and deck lid release
 • Cruise control, resume control Deep-dish, hi-tech turbo aluminium wheels.

Pin-ups... Pin-ups... Pin-ups...

Seal with flare

A new product from Russell Performance is a conical seal which provides improved 37-degree sealing on AN-fittings where the flare setting surface may have become nicked or scratched. This saves the expense of replacing adapter fittings that may have only one small scratch which allows them to leak slightly. The conical seals are available in dash sizes from .3 to .16 in bubble-packed cards of 10 pieces.

Bench warrant

Valvespring setup is one tedious job that can be streamlined by grouping the tasks, rather than doing it one valve at a time. With the heads clean, assembly the valves into their respective chambers, then pressure-test every spring to sort the weak from the strong. When it comes time to measure the installed heights, go ahead and use the assembly line tactic again. Assign a retainer and pair of split locks to each valve, make your reading and note it with a felt-tip pen right on the metal bench top, and place the assigned parts right next to the marking.



On the next run-through, assign spring shims to equalise the pressures as required, naturally doing both heads at the same time. Finally, the heads can be assembled.

No idle claim

On late-model cars, just finding the idle adjusting screws among the hoses, brackets, and other underhood paraphernalia is hard enough, let alone trying to make an adjustment. To ease the situation, slip a 6-inch vacuum hose that fits snugly over the head of the idle mixture screw and use it in lieu of a screwdriver to effect the adjustment. Easy enough?

Security clearance

Without sufficient clearance between the engine's pistons and valves there will certainly be disastrous high-rpm meeting. But if those clearances are overly generous, some vital compression ratio may be unnecessarily given away. You can tighten things up a touch if you do your checking with a high-pressure spring in place to remove all the deflection from the valvetrain before taking the measurement. To work the rocker arm now you'll need help, so try a device like this handbuilt lever, fashioned out of two sheets of aluminum and contoured to catch the rocker arm under the pushrod end. This way you'll get the absolute truth in measurements.

Paint place

Detailing a high-performance car requires painting dozens of oddly shaped brackets and braces. A layer of newspapers spread across the garage floor makes a lousy drop cloth, since it's virtually certain that the paper will stick to the edges of your freshly-painted parts. Why not use the paint rack that's probably already installed in your garage? Over-

head garage door tracks are perfect for suspending small parts from lengths of welding rod or old coat hangers. With the hardware at eye level you'll be able to spray inside all the tight spots, and you won't have to worry about detaching the sports section from your radiator brace.

High-lift crankshaft

There's nothing like a solvent tank to clean away years of grime from engine components. We've all become accustomed to using a simple wrench or block and tackle to hoist blocks into the degreasing bath, but there's no reason to break your back with a heavy crankshaft. Provided the shaft has a threaded hole for the damper/bolt there is a natural lifting point. This clever crank lifter was made from a cast-off fuel pump mounting plate and a 7/16-inch fine thread bolt; there's no end to the tricky combinations of unused pieces you can employ for this energy-saving device.

No wise cracks, please

Did you know that plastic body filler can be used to repair those small bothersome cracks in your cement garage floor? If the cracks are more like the San Andreas fault, you might want to invest in some kind of cement patch kit. But for those little cracks that always seem to seek out your creeper wheels, bondo works great.

Fruit of the looms

You should be ashamed of yourself! There's no reason for having spark plug wires running all over your engine compartment, making it look like a bowl of berserk spaghetti. Especially when a quick trip to the local boneyard will easily solve your problems. OEM-type plug wire looms can be found on practically every car there, and a quick search should turn up a number of them in 2-, 3-, and 4-wire variations. Using them will not only improve your underhood aesthetics, but will also go a long way towards eliminating crossing and arcing to a ground. The real beauty of the "factory" looms, though, is that they cost so little and do so much.

A universal cure

You say you've got ring around the collar, dandruff, and that the universal for your socket set flops around like a fish out of water? Well, bimbo, we can't do anything about those little white flakes on your shoulder. But if you wrap a few turns of black electrical tape around the flexible part of your universal, it will still flex, but will be much more manageable. As for that ring around the collar, well, you're on your own.

Bending the rules

Easy tubing bends can often be accomplished without the aid of a bending tool—if you have several different-sized V-belt pulleys at your disposal. Simply clamp the appropriate-sized pulley in a vise, then bend the tubing by laying it in the groove and applying gradual pressure until the desired bend is achieved. The best results are obtained by applying pressure as close to the the pulley as possible. And on especially tight bends, filing the tube with sand first will help prevent kinking.

Rubs the wrong way

Braided steel lines are quite popular with the street set, but they're not as indestructible as you might think. Vibration is the worst enemy of steel braided lines, and metal-to-metal contact should be avoided wherever possible. The use of Adel clamps will allow you to properly position your lines away from sources of irritation such as manifolds, valve covers, and other steel braided lines. The clamps are relatively cheap and can be found in most any surplus store, especially those carrying AN-fittings and the like.

Pilot training

How do you enlarge a hole with a hole saw when there's nothing to centre the pilot bit? Simple. Just select a hole saw that fits the existing

hole and screw it onto the saw arbor inside the large diameter blade. The concentric blades will keep the drill centred as you cut the larger hole. Oil filter favour

Here's a tip that just might save your life someday. The combination of a high-pressure oil pump and thick oil can cause an oil filter housing to "balloon" slightly if you rev your engine before the oil is at operating temperature. When the housing expands, the gasket between the block and filter can lose its seal. Sometimes the gasket just leaks, or it can spin itself off. Either outcome can be dangerous if the lubricant gets under the rear tyres. The first thing you can do to prevent these problems is to watch the oil pressure when the engine is first fired up in the morning; don't buzz the motor until the oil has had a chance to thin out a little. Next, you can put a stainless hose clamp around the filter housing just beneath the gasket and safety-wire it to the block. This will prevent the sheet metal canister from expanding and releasing the tension on the seal.

Blow hard

When was the last time you cussed up a storm trying to remove a stubborn cylinder head from the block? Before you break out your greatest screwdriver and heaviest hammer, try this: Unscrew a spark plug and insert a blow nozzle into the plug hole. If the hole is substantially larger than the nozzle you're using, a rag wrapped around the nozzle will help seal the cylinder. Applying pressure will "lift" the head right off, saving you time and frustration. Of course, it works best if you remember to remove all the head bolts and back off the rocker arms first...

Special handling

Engines stand are great, allowing you to get at every part of the block, but rotating a complete engine assembly on the stand for a little bottom-end attention requires some real "comph." Leverage is what you need, and here's how to get it. This 3-foot bar attaches to the pivoting centre post of the engine attachment plate with a simple pin and hole device, so you only need to plug it in when required. Assuming that your stand has a few inches of the centre post overhanging its receptacle (it can be modified), you'll only need a short section of tubing with an i.d. slightly greater than the o.d. of the centre post. Weld a 1-inch diameter handle to it and drill both the inner and outer portion to accept a locking pin. Do it with the block in its normal level position and you'll have a handy hanging spot for a small parts bucket.

The acid test

If you've ever inadvertently tasted anti-freeze, then you've already experienced its extreme acidity (as well as toxicity). This also affects any aluminum engine coolant. Anytime you have two dissimilar metals in an acid solution it sets up an electro-chemical electrolysis process that will literally eat aluminum or magnesium engine components, with magnesium going much quicker than aluminum. The best protection against this is some kind of magnesium anode which will sacrifice itself to save the aluminum engine parts. But to our knowledge, no one makes such an aluminum. However, Mid America Designs Inc. (P.O. Box 1368, North Route 48, Effingham, IL 62401) markets an anode that is a combination of zinc and magnesium, which is almost as good. The anode is submerged into your coolant underneath the radiator cap and will last anywhere from 6 months to a year, depending upon the acidity of your coolant.

Jet facts

If you're constantly changing jets in your carburetor, why not use a felt-tip pen and mark the jet size on the float bowl. What better place to have the information than right where you need it? Keeper of the key

Drill chuck keys show a remarkable ability to disappear—especially when several people are sharing a shop. One way to keep the key in close proximity to the chuck is to permanently attach it to the tool with a length of vacuum line. Simply slide the tubing over the long end of the key; secure the other end of the vacuum line to the drill press stand or drill handle with a hose clamp. And promise that you will never, ever leave the key in the chuck when the machinery is not being used.

Tips to drive carefully

Plan your driving route and destination in advance

By Dr B.S. Gupta

- Do a weekly check of engine oil level, cooling system, tyre inflation pressure. Listen carefully to any abnormal sound coming from the engine while running and on applying brakes. Remember the rule: A stitch in time saves nine.
- Plan your destination and driving route before you start.
- If you are not a fast driver, don't force yourself to be in the left lane, by doing so you are blocking the traffic behind you. Try to be in the middle lane, or, choose the lane according to the speed that you can control the vehicle.
- Speed limit zones: Most of

the drivers interpret speed limit zones wrongly. The correct interpretation is the following. Suppose the speed limit zone is say (100 km) it applies to the fastest moving traffic in the left lane.

However, some drivers think that if there are three lanes, all vehicles should be moving parallel at 100 km/hr in all the three lanes, which is a wrong interpretation. As a rule of thumb, the left lane would be 100 km/hr, middle lane 80 km/hr, and right lane (slowest) would be 60 km/hr.

5. Do not change lanes unnecessarily. It is a bad driving habit. Many immature drivers like to show-off their skill by overtaking other vehicles, in order to prove that their make is superior. Don't

- compare your vehicle to another vehicle on the road. Avoid zigzagging for fun.
- Start 5 minutes earlier: If you know that it will take you half an hour to reach a certain place, then allow 5 minutes for traffic lights, road detours, licence checking by police authorities, a flat tyre, stopping at the gas station for petrol, or a cold drink, etc. Never mind if you are 5 minutes earlier than the scheduled time. If you get up late by any chance, go to the office late rather than rushing on the road.
- Driving with your family: When there are children in the car, avoid fast driving. When you suddenly apply brakes, the children may not be able to take the jerk. Make sure that all doors are properly closed and locked well. Children often sing and dance on the rear seat, which obstructs the view in the mirror and you don't see any traffic following you. Be accustomed to using the left and right mirror, along with the middle mirror fixed in your vehicle. Don't allow your child to stick his neck out of the window. It can be dangerous.
- Telephone: If you have a telephone in your car and it rings for you, pull your car cautiously in the slowest lane by giving proper signals and if possible pull it further on

- Use the right signal on the right turn, and left signal for the left turn, much in advance and not on just when you approach the turning. Remember that the signal is to caution other motorists about your intentions to take a turn.

- Driving at night: Don't just use the parking lights. (Remember the parking lights are meant to be put on for temporary parking for few minutes), rather use the regular lights so that other people either driving, walking or crossing the roads know that the vehicle is approaching near them. If you don't know the correct use of lighting system, consult the traffic department who will advise you. Night

- driving is very difficult especially on single roads, where two-way traffic is involved. One must know the correct use of head lights.
- Learn thoroughly all the controls on the dashboard of the car that you are driving.
- U-turn: Always have plenty of patience on a U-turn. Most of the accidents can be avoided if the driver has patience.
- Don't EAT or comb your hair while driving, however, expert you might be.
- Mechanic: It is better to seek help from a wise and trained mechanic in case you want to fix your vehicle. An experienced mechanic may charge less but cause more problems to your car/motor/vehicle.

Various models available :

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aluminium wheels.

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• Rear window defogger

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• Radio ETR AM/FM Stereo

Cassette and Power

Antenna

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

American consumer prices rise

WASHINGTON, Dec 19, (AP): US consumer prices rose a moderate 0.4 per cent in November as higher food and heating costs more than offset cheaper gasoline, the government said today.

The seasonally adjusted increase in the Labour Department's consumer price index, which translated into an annual inflation rate of 4.9 per cent, followed a brisk 0.5 per cent rise in October and relatively modest hikes from June through September.

The price spurt was slightly higher than many analysts had been expecting. The government blamed the rise on a jump in natural gas and electricity costs and an increase in prices at supermarket checkout counters for beef, eggs, fresh vegetables and dairy products.

Through the first 11 months of this year, consumer prices have risen at an annual rate of 4.6 per cent, up only slightly from the 4.4 per cent price gains in both 1988 and 1987.

However, the year-to-date figure masks a roller-coaster ride that saw prices rising at a 6.7 per cent annual rate for the first five months of the year, moderating through the summer and then returning to about average for the past two months.

In another economic report, the Commerce Department said housing starts fell 4.7 per cent in November, reversing a 13 per cent jump a month earlier. New homes and apartments were built at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.36 million units last month, down from a revised 1.43 million units in October.

Leading the November advance in consumer inflation was a 0.6 per cent boost in food prices, the steepest since May. Dairy products jumped 1.7 per cent, the third consecutive sharp increase. The price of fruits and vegetables soared 1.8 per cent, the second big gain in a row.

Economists are attributing the dairy price hikes to last year's drought, which caused many farmers to slaughter milk cows.

Gasoline prices fell 2.1 per cent in November following a 0.9 per cent rise in October. However, other forms of energy were more expensive. The index for natural gas and electricity rose 1.5 per cent, while fuel oil edged up 0.2 per cent following a big 2.5 per cent gain a month earlier.

Overall, energy prices fell 0.1 per cent last month. Prices excluding the volatile food and energy sectors, a measure considered a better gauge of underlying inflationary pressures, were up 0.4 per cent following a 0.5 per cent gain in October.

The cost of medicine, which has been increasing at an 8.5 per cent rate over the past year, was up 0.8 per cent in November, in line with previous increases.

Clothing costs edged up 0.1 per cent in November, following two months of steep increases that coincided with the introduction of fall fashion lines.

Before taking into account normal seasonal changes, the consumer price index stood at 125.9 in November. That meant that a hypothetical selection of goods and services costing \$100 in the 1982-84 base period would have cost 125.90 last month, up from \$120.30 a year ago.

Pakistan plans new oil terminal

KARACHI, Dec 19, (Opeca): Pakistan is planning a new oil terminal in this southern port city by 1992 at an estimated cost of around \$14 million to handle imports, according to Director-General of Shipping and Ports Sajid Akbar.

He said Pakistan was importing one million tonnes of furnace oil a year and required the new facility to raise the Karachi port's oil-handling capacity from nine million to 11 million tonnes.

The proposed terminal, according to Reuters, will replace two existing oil berths and have the ability to handle vessels of up to 75,000 dwt.

Iraq to get \$10m from Islamic bank

NICOSIA, Dec 19, (Reuters): The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance \$10 million worth of Iraqi imports from member states, the Islamic News Agency said today.

The agency said five agreements had been signed between the Jeddah-based IDB and Iraq but gave no date.

The agreements raise total IDB financing for Iraq to \$13 million since last August, it said.

KD deposit rates ease

KUWAIT, Dec 19, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates today as monthly salary payments flowed into the system early due to the end of the year, dealers said.

They said funds from a \$30 million dinar (\$100 million) bond issue that matured earlier this week had also put downward pressure on rates.

On Monday, rates in all periods up to three months had been quoted at a uniform 8-1/2 to 9 per cent and six months to one year at 8-3/8 to 8-7/8.

But on Tuesday, overnight had fallen to offers of eight, with traders reported at 8-1/4. Tomorrow next and spot-next dropped to 8-3/8 to 7/8 and one week was quoted at 8-9/16 to 15/16.

Poland, IMF delay crucial loan deal

WARSAW, Dec 19, (Reuters): Poland, seeking massive Western aid to switch to a free market economy, unexpectedly delayed signing a crucial loan deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today and the fund's negotiators flew back to Washington.

Polish officials said the text of a Polish letter of intent to clinch a \$725 million IMF standby loan had been agreed during negotiations in Warsaw

but both sides felt more consultations among themselves were needed before signing.

The IMF go-ahead would trigger billions of dollars of promised aid from the World Bank and Western countries to bolster Poland's near-bankrupt economy.

It would also signal the fund's backing for a bold economic programme drawn up by the government of

Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to slash hyperinflation and set up free market structures.

One Polish official expressed concern that the delay might hold up the aid, threatening the programme which is being hotly debated in Parliament and is due to start on January 1.

The official was particularly worried that \$1 billion stabilisation loan assem-

bled by Western countries might melt away if the IMF deal was delayed.

Polish officials had earlier forecast that the accord would be signed last Friday, then on Monday. They attributed those delays to technical problems and to arguments over IMF demands for harsher measures to curb Poland's 550 per cent annual inflation.

"In general, all questions have been agreed," a Polish official said today

after the IMF negotiators left. "The text was agreed late on Monday and now both sides need time to analyse it."

The officials, who asked not to be identified, gave no hint why more consultations were needed. They said the signing would take place in a few days, possibly after Christmas.

Government officials expressed fears at the weekend that West Germany's \$250 million commitment to the loan

could flag as Bonn throws its resources into a massive effort to rebuild the East German economy.

Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz has bluntly told Parliament to hurry up and approve the programme before the West loses interest in helping Poland. Parliament is holding a four-day debate under special procedures to rush enabling legislation through by January 1.

Rich nations told to subsidise reactors for Third World

Cairo calls for greater use of nuclear energy

CAIRO, Dec 19, (Reuters): Egyptian energy officials called today for greater use of nuclear power as the cleanest energy source and urged rich nations to subsidise reactors for the Third World.

"Continued and expanded use of nuclear power provided the most effective means of satisfying energy needs with the least climatic impact," Ali El Saify, chairman of Egypt's Nuclear Power Station Authority, told an international conference on environment.

Oil Minister Abdel Hadi Kamel told the conference the main obstacle was the high initial cost of building reactors.

"Developing countries don't have the capital to build nuclear plants," he said.

"If developed countries want to enjoy a good climate, they should be giving us these (nuclear) plants at lower cost. Then everybody would be accepting them gladly."

Egypt began a nuclear programme in the 1980s and went as far as inviting bids before the Soviet nuclear power disaster at Chernobyl. Economic troubles recently have left little money to develop nuclear power.

Saidy said that with oil and gas likely to run out eventually, Egypt would have to move towards nuclear power.

"Nuclear power has never been shelved or discarded," he added. He could not give a date for restarting the programme.

Alternative coal-fired power stations—producing emissions which scientists say might be contributing to a "greenhouse effect" rise in the earth's temperature—could be costlier and cause greater damage to the environment.

"If I have the choice of moving from one source I would move directly to nuclear, not to coal," Kandeel said.

He said studies showed as soon as the oil price moved above \$13 a barrel, nuclear power became cheaper for Egypt than oil-fired power stations. Egyptian oil prices are currently between about \$15 and 17 a barrel.

Many environmentalists who have campaigned for years

against nuclear power have found that tables turned on them by a pro-nuclear lobby which says nuclear power is cleaner.

But US researcher Amory Lovins said Egypt would do better to conserve energy than switch to nuclear power. Even in the United States, he said, more efficient use of energy would save four times the amount of electricity produced by all the country's nuclear plants at one seventh of the cost.

Egypt could also take advantage of its abundant sunshine to introduce solar power. The best source of nuclear energy, he said, was the sun. "It's free, well-engineered and doesn't get us into trouble."



Dealers at a Tokyo securities company watch updated stock prices on display as they talk to customers in trading. Tokyo share prices tumbled amid widespread selling, triggered by reports of a possible rise in Japan's key interest rate. (Reuter wirephoto)

No plans to raise rate: Japan

Dollar firmer, gold gains

LONDON, Dec 19, (Reuters): The dollar gained ground against the West German mark today in subdued European trading.

Share prices were lower in London and most other major centres after a sharp dive on Wall Street on Monday, although the Frankfurt bourse rose on strong foreign demand.

Currency dealers in West Germany said movements in recent days had been magnified by the fact that turnover was falling off ahead of the Christmas holidays.

"No one's going to build any speculative positions in this market," one Frankfurt dealer said.

Dealers said the mark had been due for a minor setback after its sharp rise since East Germany opened its borders on Nov 9, but should quickly resume its advance into the New Year.

A batch of US economic indicators, including the consumer price index, came out roughly in line with forecasts and had little impact on the market.

The dollar closed in London at 1.7370 West German marks and 143.85 Japanese yen after ending Monday at 1.7240 and 144.07.

In some markets, London finished weaker as Wall Street fell in early New York trading, extending Monday's 42-point loss.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares closed 16.4 points lower at 2,342.

One share dealer in London said: "The run up to Christmas is likely to be volatile—it doesn't take much to move prices either way in the low turnover situations we've seen recently."

By noon in New York the Dow Jones industrial average was 9.82 points lower at 2,687.71.

In Frankfurt, the bourse was sharply higher in lively

trade as overseas buyers moved into West German equities.

The Dax index of 30 leading shares ended 12.93 points or 0.8 per cent higher at 1,647.50.

Gold moved higher after a short-lived rally in New York. It ended in London at \$414 an ounce after \$409.50 on Monday.

Japan's Central Bank today said it was not planning to raise its official discount rate, denying news reports that the bank will hike the rate by 0.5 percentage points to 4.25 per cent later this week.

Tatsuya Tamura, head of the policy planning department at the Bank of Japan, said in a statement that government interest rate policy was still "a blank slate."

Earlier in the day, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said he had instructed the ministry's monetary officials not to agree to any central bank plan to raise the official discount rate.

Hashimoto said the current domestic economic situation did not necessitate a third increase this year in the discount rate. He said prices were stable, though exchange rates required watching.

The Yomiuri Shimbun and the Asahi Shimbun, the nation's two largest newspapers, quoted unidentified sources today as saying the Central Bank was finalising an agreement with the finance ministry on a rate hike.

Japan's official discount rate after a 0.5 percentage point raise on March 31 and another 0.5 percentage point hike on Oct 11, stands at 3.75 per cent.

At a monthly meeting of economy-related cabinet ministers earlier in the day, Yasushi Mieno, the new governor of the Bank of Japan, said the nation's economic expansion had entered its fourth year and the economy remained robust, although a shortage of workers had worsened.

Japan's per capita GDP ranks third in '88

Net assets growing

TOKYO, Dec 19, (AP): Japan's per capita gross domestic product jumped 19 per cent as measured in US dollars in 1988, surpassing \$20,000 for the first time, the government said today.

The Economic Planning Agency, in its annual economic report, said Japan's unadjusted per capita GDP was \$23,270 in 1988, up from \$19,558 a year earlier.

The agency attributed the GDP increase largely to the yen's appreciation against the dollar in 1988.

Calculated in yen terms, the GDP grew by only 5.5 per cent.

Japan's per capita GDP was the third highest among the 24 nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, behind Switzerland and Iceland, the report said. The nation ranked fifth in 1987.

The nation's total GDP last year ranked second at \$2.85 trillion, following the United States with \$4.81 trillion, the EPA said.

GDP is the total value of a country's goods and services, excluding net income from abroad.

The agency used an average exchange rate of 128 yen to one US dollar for 1988, compared with 144

yen in 1987.

Japanese household savings last year totalled 36 trillion yen (\$252.3 billion), accounting for 14.8 per cent of the 245.2 trillion yen (\$1.7 trillion) in disposable income, it said.

The EPA said Japanese net assets abroad amounted to \$291.7 billion in 1988, up from \$240.7 billion in 1987.

Domestically, the report said, net assets held by Japanese, both in financial instruments and real estate, grew 8.4 per cent in 1988 to 2,804 trillion yen (\$19.5 trillion), up from 2,587 trillion yen (\$18 trillion) the previous year, due to a booming stock market and rising land prices.

Japan's per capita net assets totalled a record 22.87 million yen (\$1.59 billion) in 1988—22.57 million yen (\$15.7 million) in real estate assets, 26.32 million yen (\$18.3 million) in financial assets and 26.02 million yen (\$18.000) in debts, the agency said.

In fiscal 1988, which ended March 31, Japan's gross national product—GDP plus net income from abroad—grew 6.0 per cent to 373 trillion yen (\$2.6 trillion) on an unadjusted basis from a year earlier, the report said.

Charges rejected

Economic plan approved

MOSCOW, Dec 19, (Reuters): The Soviet parliament approved a government programme to rescue the ailing economy today, rejecting charges by both radical deputies and by the White House that it did little to relax decades of central planning.

In what turned into a virtual vote of confidence in Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, the congress of people's deputies backed the programme by a margin of 1,532 to 419 after four days of heated debate.

In a separate vote, members of the extended parliament also rejected by 1,532 to 389 several calls from radical critics to allow the addition of amendments to the programme.

Leonti Albalkin, a radical economist and deputy prime minister who heads the government's economic reform commission, hailed the decision as a "victory of good reason over emotions and over attempts to destabilise the situation."

If our programme had not been supported, we were ready to resign immediately," Albalkin told reporters after the vote.

Ryzhkov's programme, which he outlined to the congress last Wednesday, divides the next six years into two stages.

The first stage calls for price reform starting in 1991, with boosts in consumer goods and food production. It also aims by 1993 to slash the government budget deficit to between two per cent and 2.5 per cent of gross national product (GNP), down from its current 10 per cent.

No quick bonanzas

Americans seek new markets in E. Europe

and getting their feet on the ground, there will be plenty of opportunity."

BUSINESS

Contract signed for Jebel Ali Free Zone

A CONTRACT was signed on December 17 between Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority and Galadari Engineering for the construction of a new air-conditioned store in the Jebel Ali Free Zone.

The contract was signed by Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman of the Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority and Mohammed Galadari, Chairman of Galadari Engineering.

The design, drawings and tender documents for the store were prepared by the Jebel Ali Port Authority (Japco) engineering section, to meet increasing demand from the local and international markets for this kind of service.

The total areas of the store is 3,500 square metres and it will be able to accommodate 34,000 cubic metres of goods.

The temperature of the air-conditioned store will be maintained at 10 degrees Celsius, which makes it suitable for storing a variety of perishable goods such as colour film material and confectioneries.

The store has been designed so that in future it could be used as a cold store with a temperature range from minus 29 to plus 13 degrees Celsius.

Galadri Engineering Works will commence structural work immediately after signing the contract under the supervision of Japco's Engineering Section. Construction will take 140 days to complete at a cost of Dhs 8m.

Funds pledge more aid to Third World

ABU DHABI, Dec 19, (Reuters): Arab development funds will continue to extend loans to developing countries despite an increase in unpaid debts and a drop in oil revenues, a senior Arab official said today.

"Arab funds will continue to extend soft term loans to developing nations, especially African, to help their economies," Nasser Al Nuwais, director of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development, told a meeting of Arab aid officials.

The meeting was attended by representatives of development funds in nine Arab countries as well as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Open Fund for International Development.

The 11, which have so far provided \$28 billion to finance 2,000 projects in about 100 Third World states, will discuss the financing of various projects.

US writes off \$114 m loans

ACCRA, Dec 19, (Reuters): The United States has written off loans totalling \$114 million to Ghana, state radio reported today.

The move was in recognition of the economic reforms which Ghana is implementing under an International Monetary Fund and World Bank programme, radio said.

Washington said in July it would ease the debt burden of sub-Saharan countries up to a total amount of \$700 million.

Currency rates

	Buying	Selling
1 S dollar	0.29354	0.29499
Sterling	0.46754	0.47370
DM	0.16540	0.17150
S Fr	0.18900	0.19150
P Fr	0.04867	0.05010
Lira	0.00010	0.00020
Jap yen	0.00203	0.00258
Barbados	0.72000	0.73300
UAE Dir	0.07994	0.08036
S rial	0.078729	0.07871
D rial	0.08065	0.08111
O rial	0.76270	0.76680

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8.5-11	8.8-16
2 months	8.8-16	9.8-16
6 months	8.8-16	9.7-16
1 year	8.8-18	8.8-18

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.510
Sri Lankan rupee	7.450
Pakistani rupee	13.890
Bangladesh taka	9.060
US dollar	29490
Pound sterling	47375
UAE Dirham	0.08026
Deutsche mark	17085
Japanese yen	0.02057

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec 19, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze yesterday signed a far-reaching trade agreement with the European Economic Community, a major step toward getting needed Western help for his nation's backward economy.

"It is truly innovative," Shevardnadze said of the 10-year accord, the first between Moscow and the 12-nation trading bloc. "Its nature reflects the dynamism of the process of renewal in Europe."

He said it would help overcome the division of the European continent and "gives food and collective thinking" about creating an "economic complex on our continent."

French Foreign Minister Roland

Dumas, whose country holds the community's rotating presidency, hailed the arrangement as "facilitating the integration of the Soviet Union into the world economy."

Frans Andriessen, who is the community's top-ranking trade official, cautioned that the pact's success depended on Soviet efforts to achieve a more market-oriented economy.

The agreement will gradually get rid of most import quotas on agricultural and industrial products from the Soviet Union by the end of 1995 and set out closer co-operation in a host of areas, including nuclear energy and safety, financial services, environmental protection and management training.

In turn, the Kremlin has promised to give Western European businesses

It is truly innovative: Shevardnadze

Soviet Union, EEC sign trade accord

greater access to its potentially enormous consumer market.

"Now the agreement is to be put into practice..." Shevardnadze said. "We are ready for it and we intend to continue to work in earnest, keeping up the high tempo and the spirit of creative cooperation."

Today, the second day of his trip to Brussels, the Soviet official is to pay an unprecedented visit to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the centre of the Western military alliance.

He told reporters he did not request the meeting with NATO secretary-general Manfred Woerner, but "simply raised the question" of whether there would be a chance to visit the alliance. "We have to take the first step even if

the fleets are facing each other," he said.

He said he had "no particular hidden thoughts visiting NATO."

Asked whether the Kremlin intended to join the Western alliance, he quipped that he would take a look today and "decide whether it's worth joining up now."

He made a pitch for dismantling Cocom, the Western group of 17 nations formed to keep sensitive technology out of the hands of the East bloc nations.

"I don't like Cocom," he told reporters. But he said easing its restrictions would be up to the United States, the key partner in the Western drive.

Shevardnadze began his visit to Brussels by meeting with Belgian

officials.

Afterward, Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said the Soviets "want to break with their past." Shevardnadze, he said, "is very aware of the failures of the (economic) policies of the previous years."

Foreign ministers from the dozen community-nations gathered for the historic signing of the trade agreement and later hosted a dinner for the Soviet

omico-operation accords with Poland and Hungary and a smaller one with Czechoslovakia. It is discussing pacts with Bulgaria and East Germany.

The agreement with the Kremlin is considered broader than those with Poland and Hungary because it includes new areas of co-operation, such as in nuclear energy and safety. The community, though, has agreed to quicker phase-outs of quotas with Poland and Hungary to help their emerging democracies.

The Soviet Union imported about \$11 billion worth of goods from the community in 1987, while the trading bloc bought nearly \$16 billion from Moscow. Total trade between the community and Eastern Europe amounted to about \$56 billion in 1987.

Trade conflicts set to heat up in 1990s

Japan's economic power a bigger threat to US

TOKYO, Dec 19, (Reuters): In the 1980s, Japan became an economic superpower during a decade in which the cold war ended and capitalism gained the upper hand over communism. In the 1990s, trade conflicts look set to heat up and the struggle will be between competing capitalist ideologies.

A recent opinion poll showed that many Americans already consider Japan's economic power a bigger threat to the United States than the Soviet Union's military might.

"Japan's emergence as a major industrial power ... (has) set in motion a revolution in the way Americans think about free trade, industrial policy and the role of government," said David Hale, chief economist at Kemper Financial Services.

That strategy has seemingly worked so well that the United States has begun to doubt the efficacy of its own philosophy.

"Japan's emergence as a major industrial power ... (has) set in motion a revolution in the way Americans think about free trade, industrial policy and the role of government," said David Hale, chief economist at Kemper Financial Services.

But it has also forced some Japanese to question whether their system is giving them the full benefit of their economic success.

If Japan is the richest country in the world, why do they have to live in such small houses and pay such high prices for food?

In one sense it is not surprising that a country that spends less proportionately on defence than most other nations came to prominence in a decade when economic and political power shifted.

The period was dominated by growing small-scale trade confrontations but increasing international policy co-ordination on major issues.

It was also marked by sudden, speculative shifts in money flows as global financial markets sought to come to terms with the end of US economic hegemony and the onset of a new order based on joint leadership.

Japan weathered the October 1987 stock market crash better than other countries because Japanese bureaucrats, securities companies and investors joined

forces to buttress shares against the global selling wave.

Such close-knit co-operation has helped Japan turn adversity to its advantage many times in the past, even allowing it to weather a near doubling of its currency's value against the dollar in the late 1980s.

The dollar's decline was engineered by the United States, Europe and Japan in a bid to put increasingly lopsided world trade patterns back into better balance.

It was supposed to make US corporations more competitive and Japanese and West German companies less so.

As Japanese exports sagged under the impact of the strong yen, Tokyo pumped up domestic demand through lower interest rates and higher government spending. And Japanese manufacturers and their employees worked together to streamline operations and increase efficiency.

Armed with the slogan "adversity is the best opportunity," companies enacted strategies to combat the recession's effects," said Mitsuichi Inoue, general manager at Japanese trading house Marubeni.

The problem was that they succeeded too well. Although Japan's huge trade surplus did fall eventually, the drop was much too slow for USA Congressmen worried that America was losing out to Japan.

Another bank is accepted in 165 countries and by nearly seven million franchises worldwide. Owners of this bank's cards can make a cash withdrawal from 35,000 automated teller machines in 37 countries.

The banks cautioning their clients against losing their credit cards and urged them to report to the nearest branch, so that the card is cancelled immediately. A replacement card will be issued for a fee equal to the annual subscription.

However, they indicated, credit cards are not without their drawbacks, such as forgery, misuse of these cards by bearers and the difficulty in collecting amounts spent through the use of these cards due to lack of funds.

Those who wish to obtain any type of credit cards are requested to furnish a banking guarantee, in addition to having a Kuwaiti legal guardian, if he is not a Kuwaiti.

Some other banks also assess the client's eligibility before granting him a credit card, while others require clients to transfer their salaries to these particular banks.

In case, a card exceeded his personal credit balance without the consent of the bank, the bank has the right to deduct the sum from his account. Frequent violators of their rights will have their cards cancelled.

Move may not spur exports

China devaluation to hit imports

BEIJING, Dec 19, (Reuters): The devaluation will make imports more expensive, increasing the government's reluctance to approve anything but necessary foodstuffs or raw materials vital to export industries, analysts said.

Chinese and foreign sources said a 21.2 per cent devaluation that took effect last Saturday was a positive reform but its effectiveness would be limited by bureaucratic controls.

"This is a capitalist, free market reform applied to a communist, centrally-planned economy," a Western diplomat said. "Clearly its effect will be limited."

The renminbi, or people's currency, is now pegged at 4.72 to the dollar, down from a rate of 3.7 which had stood since July 1986.

The most immediate effect of the adjustment is likely to be a further slump in imports of foreign electrical goods and cars, items which Chinese consumers crave but the government considers unnecessary luxuries, analysts said.

"Imports of televisions, audio equipment, computers and cars ... the government has targeted to reduce," said an analyst at a Japanese trade association. "Such imports could possibly fall about 20 per cent over the next year or so."

China's trade deficit rose to \$6.67 billion in the first 11 months of this year, up from \$4.5 billion in the same 1988 period.

Analysts welcomed the devaluation as a sign China was starting to tackle overdue reforms but said the renminbi needs to fall some 40 per cent more against the dollar before the trade deficit would narrow significantly.

Under an economic austerity programme launched 15 months ago, China has tried to reduce imports by ruling that purchases of foreign goods must be approved by the central government.

Prices of crude oil, which makes up a major portion of China's export earnings, are set by international market forces and so will be unaffected.

The devaluation will make imports more expensive, increasing the government's reluctance to approve anything but necessary foodstuffs or raw materials vital to export industries, analysts said.

The real question is whether Turkey can eliminate differences between its state of development and levels that exist in the EEC within 20 years," a Western diplomat said.

"If it stays like it is now, and little has been done in the past two years on human rights and democracy, then membership is out of the question," he said.

Officials said the message from Brussels was clear. Turkey had to improve its human rights image and an economy saddled with 75 per cent annual inflation and life clamps, especially on trade unions, imposed during 1980-83 army rule.

Political opposition parties used the report to lash out at Turkey's centre-right government, formerly led by Ozal.

The report is utterly negative and with this negativity our government should a greater responsibility," Erdal Inonu, leader of the Social Democrat Populist

Party, told reporters.

Suleyman Demirel, leader of the centre-right True Path Party, said: "The government made this subject a tool for dynamic politics. Now they are left outside the door."

Hassan Cemal, editor of the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet, wrote: "The commission's response is negative but they have not slammed the door yet... a Turkey that fully implements human rights and democracy cannot be overlooked."

Diplomats said the report was carefully worded in an effort not to offend Turkey, which borders the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq and Syria as well as Greece.

"The fact that Turkey is regarded as European by the EEC is not in question. That is taken for granted with the associate membership agreement," a Western diplomat said.

Members of some EEC states privately question whether the EEC will ever allow Turkey, a mainly Muslim but secular state linking Europe and Asia, to join

VARIETY

Santa Claus has gone high-tech

Computer used

By Nigel Stephenson

ROVANIEMI, Finland: (Reuters) Santa Claus is using computers and videophones to spread Christmas magic to the world's children from his home in chilly Lapland.

Computers sort a mail-bag of 600,000 letters from children around the world written to the legendary character at Santa Claus village, the biggest of nine official Santa attractions in Lapland.

A team of helpers takes more than 100,000 telephone calls from youngsters in Finland alone.

This year, for the first time, a special videophone line which carries pictures as well as sound, allows children in a Finnish hospital to see and hear "Santa" in his log cabin office on the Arctic Circle north of Rovaniemi.

Next year the service may be extended to the United States, Britain and France, said Taina Torvela, marketing manager of Santa Claus Land, an organization formed in 1985 to promote Lapland as the home of Santa Claus.

Santa's incoming mail-bag contained letters from 144 countries last year. Letters arrive at a rate of 10,000 a day just before Christmas and the used stamps are sold in aid of the UN children's fund (Unicef).

Every letter with a legible address receives a reply, free of charge. Some 70 red-clad "Elves" send back standard replies in a choice of eight languages, and there are plans to use a computer to draft more individual replies.

An increasing number of letters are coming from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as restrictions on celebrating Christmas there have eased, Torvela said.

Earlier this month a group of 15 children from the Soviet Republic of Estonia visited the village. "It was a Christmas present to see the smiles on their faces," she said.

But it is not just the young for whom Santa has a growing

appeal. Major companies are hoping the magic will work a spell for them.

Firms in South Korea, Japan and Australia have this year paid for a special letter from Santa for their clients.

From next year, Torvela said, a cassette bearing a taped greeting from Santa on one side and with the other side blank for an appropriate corporate message, should be available.

From the beginning of this year, 20 companies and organizations, including the national airline Finnair and the Finnish Postal Service, joined Santa Claus Land to provide funds and to benefit from Santa Claus' commercial potential.

The "magic of Santa Claus appears to be growing and in Lapland they are making the most of it."

The vast province of just 200,000 people was officially declared Santa Claus Land by its governor, Asko Oinas, in 1984.

Rovaniemi, Lapland's small provincial capital, is the heart of the booming Santa business.

This year, some 550,000 tourists visited Santa Claus village.

As the seasonal rush reaches its peak, 21 chartered flights, including four by the Concorde supersonic airliner, bring in visitors for day trips from Britain and the Netherlands.

The first building at Santa Claus village was a log cabin built for Eleanor Roosevelt — widow of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission — when she visited the Arctic Circle in 1950.

Santa sits in his office and greets children, next to the gift shop and famous post office, one of Finland's busiest.

Finns say Lapland's claim to be Santa's home is supported by seven centuries of legend and tradition.

Under a new licensing deal, he will shortly be taking up residence in two theme parks in Japan. A similar deal is being negotiated for a project in the United States.

Group tourism is still in its infancy despite the spectacular desert scenery and some of the world's finest prehistoric rock paintings in nearby Tassili

national park.

Djanet is beginning to open up, "said Hamou Dahou, who runs a tourist agency leading groups into the park. "Every year there are a few more visitors." The park says 8,000 visited last year, more than double the 1985 figure.

Djanet is so remote that the only paved road for hundreds of miles around is a 30-km (20-mile) stretch to the airport. Boeing 737s link it several times a week to Algiers, 2,000 km (1,250 miles) to the northwest.

The only hotel has ten rooms, and tourists generally pitch tents

in the surrounding desert. But a new 126-bed hotel is due to open next month. It is possibly the only one in the world with a terrace built with fossils from an ancient lakebed.

Occasionally a battered Peugeot rattles through the village but nearly every other vehicle is a four-wheel drive with a goatskin slung at its side and jerrycans in the back.

Although Djanet was never as big a Saharan trading post as the nearby Libyan town of Ghadames or the southern Algerian city of Tamanrasset, camel caravans still arrive from Niger bearing dried cheese and tomatoes, Touareg crafts and peanuts.

The only hotel has ten rooms, and tourists generally pitch tents

ambitious project — a 300-bed hotel with a network of shelters inside the park, now total wilderness.

Officials hope to avoid the pitfalls of mass tourism especially damage to fragile rock paintings some of which are 10,000 years old.

"We face a dilemma of whether to develop or preserve," said Bouchemal. "But we must find a way to develop while preserving what our ancestors bequeathed us."



Motherly love

Nadia, a 15-year-old Costa species gorilla cradles her two-week-old baby at Madrid Zoo. Zoo officials closed off the primate area to allow the baby, the first of its kind born in captivity in Madrid, some quiet time. (Reuter wirephoto)

of its kind born in captivity in Madrid, some quiet time. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nadia, a 15-year-old Costa species gorilla cradles her two-week-old baby at Madrid Zoo. Zoo officials closed off the primate area to allow the baby, the first

Glasnost makes it easy to film in USSR

Authentic Russia now

By Andrew Gumbel

LONDON: (Reuter) A curious chapter in cinema history is closing. The days of Western film-makers dressing up Helsinki to look like Moscow or shooting Soviet cityscapes in London's derelict docks are drawing to an end.

Encouraged by glasnost and the welcoming arms of a country desperate for hard currency, film companies are descending on the Soviet Union to give Russian scenes an authenticity almost entirely missing since the start of the cold war.

"A few years ago the idea of shooting there was something only a masochist would contemplate," said Ian Lloyd, whose company Eureka hopes to lay the laborious groundwork for future Western productions in the Soviet Union.

Hotel rooms are notoriously scarce and, along with visas, have to be requested from inside the country well in advance.

Food and transport are hard to get hold of and technical equipment generally has to be imported to satisfy Western production standards.

Other inconveniences, such as the circuitous official routes through which requests have to pass and the fact that Moscow has no telephone directory, can make administration a nightmare.

The "Russia House" crew brought its own cameras, freezer trucks full of meat, vegetables and dairy products, and more than 50 vehicles from Finland and Britain.

But the difference in the era of glasnost, Lloyd explains, is that hard currency talks: "everything will work at a price."

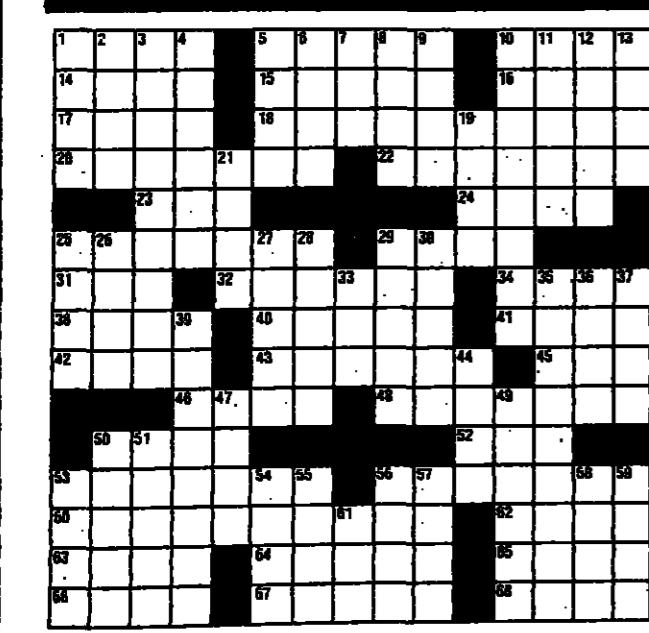
The trick, he says, is to do a lot of negotiating face to face, pay over the odds and offer small personal inducements such as a ballpoint pen or a packet of Western cigarettes.

Lloyd recently took a documentary team to the Soviet Union to test the waters. He was able to get inside the Bolshoi ballet and also filmed parts of the Kremlin.

In Leningrad, whose canals, grand palaces and lack of parking meters or road markings make it a plum location for period filming, he filmed inside many of the buildings that the Bolsheviks took over during the 1917 October revolution.

"Storming the winter palace was quite easy for us," he said. "In fact our impression was that if a scene required half of the Red Army there would be no problem in enlisting them."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
U.S. WINS WOMEN'S WORLD TITLE

North-South vulnerable. North Palmer, Silver Springs, Md.

Deals. Palmer and Deas were East and West, respectively, on this hand from the last session. Without knowing partnership agreements, it is difficult for us to comment on the auction. In the other room, Kerry Shuman had made four hearts as South when East did not open the bidding and West elected to lead the ace of clubs.

Against the same contract, West led her singleton diamond. East took the ace and returned the four of diamonds—a suit preference signal showing a possible entry in the lower-ranking side suit, in this case, clubs. West dutifully underlined the ace of clubs, allowing East to gain the lead with the king of clubs. Another diamond ruff completed a textbook defense—down one.

Suit preference signals are simple to master and effective in many phases of the game. Since they exclude the trump suit, they involve only two suits. If the entry is in the higher of those two suits, you return a high card. Thus, had East's entry been in spades, she would have shot back the queen of diamonds to request a spade lead and not a club.

The U.S. Women's Team defeated the Netherlands in a close match to win the Venice Cup, emblematic of the world bridge supremacy. Representing the U.S. were a quartet of New Yorkers, Kerry Shuman, Karen McCallum, Margie Gwozdzinsky and Kitty Bethe, and Lynn Deas, Schenectady, N.Y., and Beth

The bidding: North East South West Pass 1♦ 1♥ 1♦ 1♦ 2♦ Dbl 3♦ 3♦ Pass 4♦ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

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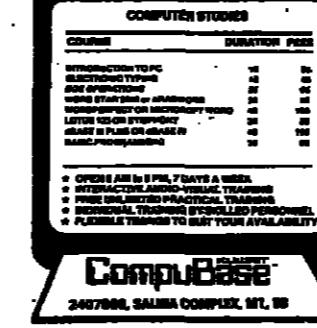
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SPORTS

Evershine
Evergreen,
Siddique
triumph

An easy win over Union C.C. help Evershine reach the finals of the Gulf Trophy at the Ahmadi Grounds of Thursday.

Due to the rain, the match was reduced to 15 overs only. Looking at the weather, Union C.C. captain opted to bat first, but his decision did not pay off when his side could gather 52 runs only for the loss of 6 wickets in the allotted time, with only one of their players, Shaqat reaching the double figure of 19. Five other players, Mehboob, Saleem, Farakh, Saeed and Nasser were sent back for 3, 9, 6, 0 and respectively. Anil and Imran remained unbeaten on 5 each.

For Evershine, Tahir, Sohail and Zahid bowled extremely well and picked up 2 wickets each giving away 14, 10 and 9 runs only.

Evershine's was equally troubled by the wet matting and bad weather. They took 9 overs and lost 3 of their batsmen to reach the required target. Zulqarnain and Sohail, who went in to open the innings, were sent back for 3 and 17 respectively. Quamar followed them with 17, picking on any runs. Rizat and Ajmal remained at the crease till the end of the innings and scored 15 and 14 respectively.

Saeed and Nasser were the only wicket-takers from Union C.C. Saeed bagged two whereas Nasser came away with one.

A defiant knock of 15 runs from Ejaz took Evergreen into the finals of Al Ahsa Trophy on Friday.

After being put in to bat first, Evergreen amassed a total of 216 runs in 25 overs. Once again Ejaz Ahmad was the main contributor. He was well supported by Tariq who was bowled out at the total of 55 for 22. Razzak did not last long and gave an easy catch with the total of 67.

Imam was sent back by Riaz for 7. Riffat, who came into join Ejaz, in the 13th over displayed his potential and remained at the crease till the last ball of the match when he was given lbw for 61 runs which included a mighty sixers and 5 sixes shot to the fence.

Though all Union bowlers were treated harshly by the Evergreen batsmen, Shahzad ended his 6 overs with 2 wickets to his credit. Riaz and Jameel managed 1 wicket each.

In reply, Union batsmen were way out of line and both their openers were sent back with the total at 20 runs. Shahzad, who was dropped when he had scored 4 runs, did not take any more chances and started repairing the damage. He was superbly supported by Farakh before being caught for 46.

Farakh kept his cool and kept fighting along till the total reached 151 runs when he was bowled by Qamar for 52. Qamar then wrapped up the rest of the Union's batting side in the space of 7 runs only and the entire side was bundled out for 158 runs, giving Evergreen another victory by 38 runs.

Quamar and Tahir were solely responsible for destroying Union as they picked 5 and 3 wickets respectively. The last wicket was picked up by Jameel.

Siddique Cricket Club reached the final of the Shabbir Memorial Trophy with a nine-run victory over Lanks Colts at the EPI ground on Friday.

Siddique won the toss and opted to bat, opening their innings through Arif and Afzal. Both these batsmen gave them a good start. Arif was the first to lose his wicket after he had scored 19. Amjad joined Afzal at the wicket but was soon back in the pavilion.

Shahid scored 15 and Tariq 51 as Siddique put on 195 runs in 30 overs. Zulqarnain chipped in with a quick 29 in which he hit five boundaries while Khalid scored 14.

In reply, Lanks Colts found the going tough and were always behind the run-rate. Their wickets kept falling at regular intervals and the whole team was out for 186. Senan played well for 71 while Chris hit 49.

For Siddique, Amjad took three wickets while Faraq got two and Malik one.

Aussies set Sri Lankans 522 for victory

De Silva inspires fightback



Waugh (right) is congratulated by Jones after reaching his century. (Reuter wirephoto)

HOBART, Australia, Dec 19. (Reuter): Pugnacious Aravinda de Silva inspired a fightback by Sri Lanka today after unbeaten centuries by Australia's Steve Waugh and Dean Jones had set the touring side a massive 522 to win the second cricket test.

At the close on the fourth day Sri Lanka were 166 for three in their second innings with De Silva 64 not out after putting on 72 for the fourth wicket with captain Arjun Ranatunga.

Australia, with an eight-run lead on first innings, declared at their lunch score of 513 for five.

Waugh, 134 not out, and Jones, 118, added an unbeaten 260 for the sixth wicket at more than a run a minute.

De Silva, who came to Australia with a Test average of 25.38, will leave the country with a reputation as a stroke player of the highest class having hit 167, 75 and now 64 not out in three Test innings.

Waugh returned from the 4-0 Ashes thrashing of England with a similar reputation and a series average of 126.50 but he had to wait until today to score his first 100 on Australian soil.

It was a typical Waugh effort, full of flashing aggression and fluent cover drives. Resuming in the morning on 77, with Australia at 387 for five, Waugh

raced to three figures off just 111 deliveries and including 11 fours.

Jones' century was a more sedate affair, taking 152 balls, and the right-hander was very fortunate to survive a confident appeal for caught behind off Graeme Labrooy when he had added just nine to his overnight

51. Waugh was dropped in the gully by Asanka Gurusinghe when on 112. But by then the Sri Lankans had been torn to shreds by electric running between the wickets and it was just a matter of whether the touring side could manage to avoid defeat.

Ranatunga ended the day 25 not out.

Sri Lanka, needing to bat for 10 hours to repeat the draw in the first Test, started badly when Rosman Mahanama fell lbw to paceman Greg Campbell with just six on the board.

Gurusinghe and Dhammika Ranatunga took the score to 53 before Gurusinghe fended a Merv Hughes bouncer to substitute fielder Rod Tucker in the gully. Gurusinghe scored 20.

Ranatunga, five runs short of his 50, was annoyed by his dismissal. He chased a delivery from Hughes wide outside his off stump and edged a catch to wicket-keeper Ian Healy.

At 94 for three Sri Lanka were facing their 16th loss in 29 Tests but De Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga set about a recovery with De Silva irrepressible despite the situation.

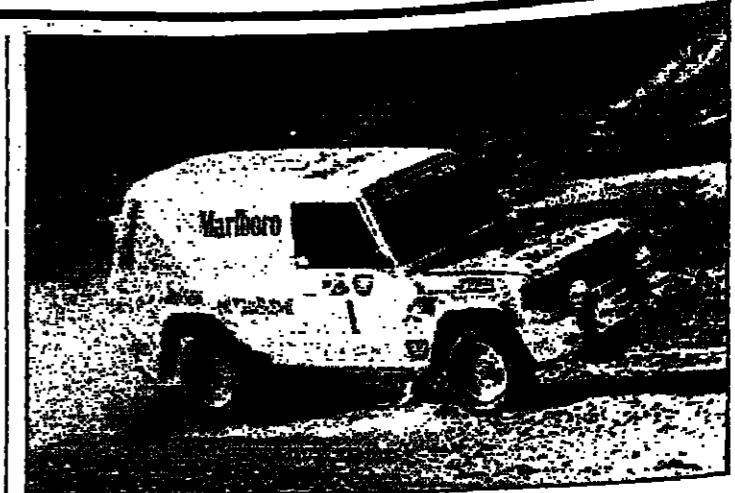
All but 20 of his 64 runs came in boundaries. A superb four through the covers brought up his 50. The next ball from leg-spinner Peter Sleep was deposited over mid off to the fence.

But Sleep should have removed De Silva shortly before the close when the diminutive right-hander hit his long hop to Terry Alderman at backward square. Alderman dropped it.

Ranatunga ended the day 25 not out.

Scoreboard
AUSTRALIA first innings 224
SRI LANKA first innings 216
Australia second innings (overnight 387 for five)

M. Taylor c Gurusinha b Aravinda	108
T. Moody c Tilkeratne b Ratnayake	5
M. Hughes c Gurusinha b Ratnayake	30
A. Border b Aravinda de Silva	85
D. Jones not out	118
S. Waugh not out	134
Extras (b-2 lb-5 w-4 nb-22)	33
Total (five wickets)	513 declared
Fall of wickets	1-12-10-77-24-240-5-253
Did not bat:	1. Healy, T. Alderman, P. Sleep, G. Campbell.
Bowling (to date):	Labrooy 22-3-100-1, Ramayake 35-6-123-2 (4w6nb), Ratnayake 19-1-86-0 (4nb), Asoka de Silva 21-2-93-0 (1nb), Aravinda de Silva 18-1-65-2 (4nb), Ramayake 10-0-49-0 (4 nb).
SPR LANKA second innings	
R. Mahanama lbw b Campbell	5
D. Ranatunga c Healy b Hughes	45
A. Gurusinghe c sub b Hughes	20
Aravinda de Silva not out	64
A. Ranatunga not out	25
Extras (b-3 lb-1 nb-3)	7
Total (three wickets)	186
Fall of wickets	1-82-53-3-84
To bat:	Ravi Ratnayake, Hashan Tilkeratne, Asoka de Silva, Rumesh Ratnayake, Graeme Labrooy, Champaka Ramanaayake.
Bowling (to date):	Alderman 16-3-55-1, Sleep 14-5-29-0, Hughes 10-0-41-2.



Falah to contest Kuwait local rally

EID FALAH AL FARZAN, the reigning Kuwait national champion, will be driving a Marlboro-backed Mitsubishi Pajero in the second round of the 1989/90 Kuwait local championship which takes place on Friday, December 22.

His performance with the Marlboro Mitsubishi team in the last two rounds of this year's four-wheel drive series won him the coveted position of driving the Pajero in local events.

"I am absolutely delighted to be in this car," said Eid Falah, who has won every local event this year. "The Pajero is a very good car, and I'd like to thank Marlboro, Raliart and the Al Mulla company for their support."

The talented driver returned to the Pajero in October, and will be making a concerted effort for victory in Friday's event. He will be partnered by Khaled Khalifa, one of the region's most experienced co-drivers, who formerly partnered Marlboro team-mate Tareq Al Wazzan.

The rally is being organised by the KT Club, and will consist of two stages, in the Doha and Anghara areas. "They are not rough stages and I expect a lot of finishers. That gives a chance for a better competition," said Clerk of the Course Wael Khoury.

The second of the stages is twisty, whereas the first stage requires caution and control in places, and should favour the more talented drivers. The Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero is unlikely to face any serious problems over the total 92.4 km stage distance, but timing between stages will be tight, calling for an efficient back-up team.

The rally will start at 8.30 am in front of the Kuwait International Hotel, and the cars are expected to return at round 4.30 pm.

Another driver who will not face problems over the same stages is Tareq Al Alyan, who is being sponsored by Mild Seven Lights.

As usual, Tareq will be driving his standard Daihatsu Rocky and will have his wife Kholoud as his co-driver.



Alyan in action in an earlier event.

Filcheck to hold award ceremony

THE award ceremony of the First Active Chess Tournament, organised by the Filcheck Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) will be held on Friday, December 22 at 1.30 pm, at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

The top finishers in each group will each receive a trophy donated by Trico International, and a wrist watch donated by Jun Mercado, a candidate for Jun Mercado, a candidate for Jun Mercado.

Kapilkul president. The group leaders are: Ali Macayaan, Wally Soriano, Rading Noe, Edwin Borigas, and Danilo Calasin.

Top awardees are: Nanding Policarpio, overall tournament champion and runners-up Danilo Calasin, Edwin Borigas, Niel Dumiao, Thony Monreal, and Rene Mostrelas. They will receive a trophy donated by Don Kannangara of Trico International, an Arabic-Filipino-English Dictionary courtesy of its author Dr Farid Lian, a Kasparov chess computer and radio cassettes from Maher Abdelkarim of Adawlah Electronics and stereo cassette recorders from Karim Kitamura of Sony Suppling store.

Non-winners in the final round namely Jess Berguen, Teddy Lagmay, Wahab Alamada, Sammy Aurellano, Adrian Perez and Nilo Mag-

tangob, will each receive a dinner-for-two voucher at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

Filcheck Logo design contest winner, Thony Monreal, will also receive a Sony cassette/recorder and an Arabic-Filipino-English dictionary.

The Kabayan Singers composed of Grace de la Fuente, Mher Lumbang, Estela Montgas, Andy Gabriel and Milano Mendez will render song numbers during the programme.

All Filcheck members have been asked to come for the awarding and the annual election of officers which will be conducted after the ceremonies.

Meanwhile, all chess enthusiasts who are interested to join Filcheck are invited to register in the club's headquarters in Kabayan Restaurant or contact Engr Edward or Sammy at Tel. 2402405 for details on membership.

Race cancelled

VIENNA, Dec 19. (AP): Officials at the Austrian resort of Schladming and a spokesman of the International Ski Federation (FIS) in Switzerland confirmed yesterday that a World Cup downhill planned for Thursday has been cancelled due to warm weather.

The race was the third event in Europe to be cancelled since Dec 9.

A wave of warm weather more characteristic of spring than December which is sweeping across Central Europe has caused the artificially prepared piste at Schladming to start disintegrating.

Race cancelled

VIENNA, Dec 19. (AP):

The GMA said it wanted the next world championship finals, scheduled by October 1990 in the French city of Lyon, to be split, with 12-game second half switched to a major city in the United States.

Kasparov and his two prospective opponents, ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman, have agreed to the proposal. But it has to be approved by Fide and the Lyon organisers.

The GMA board said it would become the awarding body for titles.

GMA chairman Bessel Kok of Belgium said major companies would sponsor the commercial launch of chess, and a large US company was behind the bid to move half of the final to the United States.

The players' decisions must be approved by Fide

and the GMA.

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SPORTS

Netherlands take on Brazil

Dutch to miss top stars



Frank Rijkaard

AMSTERDAM, Dec 19. (Reuter): The Dutch team which takes on Brazil tomorrow will have an unfamiliar look as injuries and club calls rip the heart out of the side which won the 1988 European championship and topped its World Cup qualifying group.

The Dutch already had hit by the continued absence of inspirational captain Ruud Gullit, are without Barcelona Libero Ronald Koeman while Gullit's AC Milan colleagues Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten may play only half a game each.

A club commitment also rules out Mechelen quartet John Bosman, Erwin Koeman, Graeme Rutjes and Wim Hofkens, leaving coach Thijs Libregts to field a second string line-up against the South American champions in Rotterdam.

By contrast Brazil, whose squad is based largely on their European exiles, have been boosted by the late addition of Vasco da Gama striker Bebeto and Sao Paulo defender Ricardo Rocha. Brazilian coach Sebastiao

Lazaroni may pair Bebeto with Napoli's Careca up front, relegating PSV Eindhoven star striker Romario, who has scored 50 times in 51 appearances for the Dutch club, to the substitutes' bench.

Libregts would welcome such problems.

With Barcelona insisting Koeman take a week off from soccer he is desperately hoping that Van Basten and Rijkaard report fit today to add some lustre to his line-up.

The pair played for AC Milan as they won the World Club Championship after extra time in Tokyo on Sunday and the Italian club has advised them not to play against Brazil.

Libregts has suggested he will compromise by asking the pair to play 45 minutes in a game celebrating the centenary of the Dutch Football Association, expected to attract a crowd of around 40,000.

Yesterday he added two uncapped 22-year-olds, midfielder Martin Laamers of Vitesse and Frank Berghuis of Volendam.

dam to his squad, which now contains four players who have yet to play at full international level.

His experimental side could struggle to contain a team featuring the stylish talents of defender Mozer of Olympique Marseille and Napoli midfielder Alemao.

In October, the Brazilians beat Italy 1-0 and will be determined to improve on a poor record against the Dutch who have defeated them in their two previous meetings.

Netherlands (from): Hans van Breukelen, Joop Hilde, Danny Blund, Adrie van Tiggelen, Frank Rijkaard, Berry van Aerle, Edward Sturing, Aron Winter, Jan Wouters, Martin Laamers, Rob Reekers, Frank Berghuis, John van 't Schip, John van Loen, Marco van Basten, Bart Lutjehorus, Wim Kieft, Juul Ellerman.

Brazil (from): Taffarel, Ze Carlos, Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Aldair, Mozer, Julio Cesar, Branco, Dida, Alemao, Dunga, Silas, Valdo, Geovani Muller, Careca, Bebeto, Romario.



A bone-crunching tackle by Shopley on Harvey

Blues hold off Whites



The Blues front five pack down

Has Beans edge past MEE to retain lead

AS the Mouschel Wednesday Darts League heads into its mid-season Xmas break, Has Beans can reflect on a job well done — so far. Middle Eastenders, having made all the early running this season, found things against them again this week as Has Beans pipped them with the final dart of the set. Mickey Mouse leg to take both points when, a draw looked a good possibility.

The best scores all went MEE's way, Peter Bedlow and Murray Rix both hitting 140, whilst Jim Moorhouse had 3 high scores in defeat again. Nobby Burton was

not perturbed though, as he made 100 in beating Rix 2-1 set up an unbeatable 3-1 lead after the singles.

Both MM games were extremely close, MEE staying in the contest by winning the first, and with one bull required for victory in the second, it was a draw was on. However, a fruitless MEE visit to the board let Burton snatch victory with his final dart. In the Ladies game MEE won for the first time in 6 attempts to hand Human Beans first defeat in 3.

With teams trying to make up some postponed games, both Bulls Hitters and Chucklers played twice — with varying success, both men's teams took 3 points each, having played out a draw 3-3 battle, and then beating Fintas Flayers and Pacifists respectively, the second series of games producing 140's for Bob Cole and John Watson and 3 high scores for Dave Gray. The major surprise was B.H. Ladies losing both games and the League leadership, Hilary Jones helping Chucklers along with 3 bulls, before Hilary Milne had 4 bulls in the second match but could not stop a famous Floosies victory.

In the wake of B.H. Ladies' slump, Zero Down returned to the top of the League by denting Pacifics hopes. Zero-Up also had a good draw, Flavian D'Mello recording a 140 in response to an Allan Anderson 140 in 3 high scores.

Destiny

Mugs Away, along with Chucklers are proving to be the dark horses of the league. A slightly flattering scoring against Blackouts, where all the singles games went 2-1 and both MM games were close, has moved the Mugs into 3rd place. With most of the top teams still to be played their destiny is of their own making.

A similar story for Chucklers who have yet to play 4 of the top 7, and remain one of only two undefeated teams in both Wednesday Leagues. Mugs Away Ladies also continue to improve, winning despite 2 MM trebles from Ian Mass.

Shower of Tossers have finally made it into the top half of the table thanks to a win over Absolutely. Mike McLeod continued his recent revival with 4 more high scores and there were 140's for Martyn Evans, Mike Durkin and Ham Hanger.

A well contested Ladies match saw Lady Tossers come out narrowly on top as Dawn D'Dowd and Lorraine Bond both had trophy winning scores.

The final match produced another Richard Ellis 140 as Soweto Slingers proved too much for the luckless No Hoppers, although skipper Derek McGowan did cheer his troops with 4 100's in 2-0 win, his first in the League, but there was no let up as Avengers' quickly ran up a 3-0 advantage over Northern Lights.

The full results summary for this weeks Mouschel Wednesday Darts League fixtures is as follows, with Ladies scores in brackets:

Pacifics	(2) 2	Chucklers	(2) 4
Has Beans	(1) 4	MEE	(3) 6
Mugs Away	(3) 6	Blackouts	(3) 6
Chucklers	(3) 4	No Hoppers	(3) 3
Soweto S.	(3) 5	Absolutely	(3) 2
Zero-Up	(3) 3	Pacifists	(3) 1
Bulls Hitters	(1) 5	Fintas Flayers	(1) 1

Ban sought on muscular sports for women

JAKARTA, Dec 19. (Reuter): Indonesia should ban women from body-building sport because it is against nature, an official of the country's leading Islamic women's organisation said today.

The Asian organisation has written to the ministers for sport and religion asking them to ban women from sports such as wrestling, body building, weight-lifting and soccer, the official, who asked not to be identified, said.

"It's completely against women's nature. It's not

ethical for women to show off their bodies and expose muscles even for the sake of sport," she told reporters.

"I wouldn't let my son marry a woman who plays tough sports. He could be hit."

Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, last year hosted the first Women's World Weightlifting Championships in which two Indonesian women were silver medallists.

Indonesia has more than 100 women's soccer clubs.

Choi finishes on top

S.W. CHOI, the volleyball coach of the Kuwait National team, won the President's putter contest held at the Hunting & Equestrian Golf Club on Friday.

This event is held annually to contest for a top prize putter presented to the winner by club president Dr Ahmad Al Motawi.

Despite strong northerly cold wind and slow greens made soft by heavy overnight rain, fifty contestants played in this event that produced a very few sub par rounds held in the Stableford scoring system.

S.W. Choi led the pack and was a comfortable winner with 39 points to oust into second place J.H. Kim who carded 36 points. Three players were on 34 points, S.D. So took third place on a count back from Subail Gidwani and Pierre Van Thiel. Others in the running were P Brings with 33 points, E. Cunningham with 32 points and B. Daniel, P. Akenson, H.R. Jang, N. Edwards, C.K. Lim all on 31 points.

In side competition, the long-hitting C.K. Lim had the longest drive for men for the second consecutive week. While for the ladies, Deidre Brenn won her first trophy of the season by winning the longest drive contest. Teenager S.S. Meng, from the Kuwait English School, won nearest to the pin contest on two shots.

Nichols raps Barnard

ROME, Dec 19. (Reuter): American Steve Nichols, the top McLaren designer who joined Ferrari, has criticised the man he replaced, John Barnard, for moving the Italian team's project operation to Britain.

In an interview in the *Gazzetta dello Sport* newspaper today, Nichols, who designed the McLaren Formula One car that won 15 of the 16 races in the 1988 world championship, said Ferrari had to defend its image as the ambassador of Italian racing.

And he said the design team must be centred once again on Ferrari's Italian headquarters in Maranello.

"John stripped the technical and human potential of the men of

'Johnson would have won without steroids'

LONDON, Dec 19. (UPI): Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter who was disqualified for doping at the Seoul Olympics, might have won the Olympic 100 metres title even if he had not used anabolic steroids, according to a BBC television programme to be shown in the new year.

The documentary, to be shown by BBC1 on Jan 3, says the belief that steroids improve athletics performance may be a myth.

"Scientific research in the United States and Italy shows that steroids appear to have had no effect on athletics achievement during the past 25 years," said BBC spokeswoman Ruth Garland.

The programme challenges the established view that steroids make champions. The general belief is that they build muscle tissue and increase aggression by imitating the effect of the male hormone testosterone.

But the programme says the experiences of two track and field champions provide evidence of the ineffectiveness of steroids. British former European champion 400 metres runner David Jenkins, who was jailed in the United States last year for his involvement in a drugs ring, describes his failures while on drugs and American four-time Olympic discus champion Al Oerter talks about his brief dalliance with steroids.

"The conclusion of this film by Chris Thau is unavoidable," Garland said. "If the scientists are right, Ben Johnson could have won his gold medal anyway, without drugs."

Special squad to accompany English team

LONDON, Dec 19. (Reuter): A special squad of British anti-hooligan police will accompany the England soccer team to Sardinia next June for the opening matches of the World Cup finals, the English Football Association (FA) said today.

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, said the police had agreed to go to the island at the FA's expense in a bid to limit trouble from England's notorious fans.

He said the police would follow England to the Italian mainland if the team qualified for the later stages. The cost of the policing would be up to £100,000 (\$160,000).

"Obviously we will pick up the bill, however big, without hesitation," Kelly said. "The British government have said they will not pick up any part of the bill."

The scrums were very even in terms of strikes, but the superior control of Burch on the Blue side enabled Hill to clear the ball cleanly. From such possession, a neatly placed chip saw Ashwood pickup up superbly and beat Adams to the touch down. Unfortunately S. Hill also missed this conversion.

Butterly and Gary Hill won good ball for the Whites at the line-out and Steve Hutchinson used this possession to run hard at the opposition, but he too often lacked support after the tackle. Gustav Ferrari tackled ferociously all afternoon and twice denied Houston and McFalane what seemed like certain tries.

The Blues best forward was perhaps Peter Burch who showed good physical presence in all aspects of the game. It was fitting therefore he should score the third try to give the Blues a 14-0 half-time lead.

The second half saw the Whites forwards fully committed with 'Mole' Winfield driving hard at the opposition. It was against the run of play that Blues scored, but the try itself was a beauty. Yet again, the Gallic flair of Jean Marie Barratt created an overlap for Shopley to score his second try.

At 20 points to 10 and with Tarbet and Harrison working hard in order to reduce the score, the Blues looked in danger of losing. However, the all out attack led to large holes in the defence which enabled Steve Hill to score after some fine support running by Tony Sole.

With teams trying to make up some postponed games, both Bulls Hitters and Chucklers played twice — with varying success, both men's teams took 3 points each, having played out a draw 3-3 battle,

and then beating Fintas Flayers and Pacifists respectively, the second series of games producing 140's for Bob Cole and John Watson and 3 high scores for Dave Gray.

The major surprise was B.H. Ladies losing both games and the League leadership, Hilary Jones helping Chucklers along with 3 bulls, before Hilary Milne had 4 bulls in the second match but could not stop a famous Floosies victory.

In the wake of B.H. Ladies' slump, Zero Down returned to the top of the League by denting Pacifics hopes. Zero-Up also had a good draw, Flavian D'Mello recording a 140 in response to an Allan Anderson 140 in 3 high scores.

Destiny

Mugs Away, along with Chucklers are proving to be the dark horses of the league. A slightly flattering

scoring against Blackouts, where all the singles games went 2-1 and both MM games were close, has moved the Mugs into 3rd place. With most of the top teams still to be played their destiny is of their own making.

A similar story for Chucklers who have yet to play 4 of the top 7, and remain one of only two undefeated teams in both Wednesday Leagues. Mugs Away Ladies also continue to improve, winning despite 2 MM trebles from Ian Mass.

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